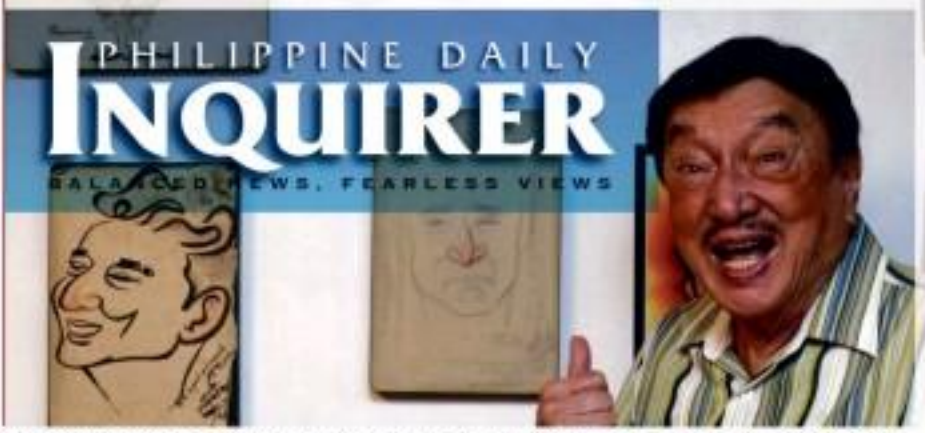
Wednesday, July 11, 2012 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 37 / No. 213 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ DN BREAKING to 4407 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

Dolphy: Thank you for the laughter



OF SAD AND GREATNESS Filipinos, wherever they are, got their best medicine—laughter—in large doses for the past 70 years from the man known affectionately as Rodolfo Vera Quizon but Dolphy to one and all, young and old. HOMEPAGE

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

WHEN the end came, the entire nation was at his bedside.

They knew him as the Comedy King, but for a lot of Filipinos, actor Dolphy, or Rodolfo Vera Quizon in real life, was considered the unofficial Father of Peace and Help.

His partner Zsazsa and some of his 18 children were with him when he died at 8:30 last night. Dolphy would have turned 84 on July 25. His remains now lie at the Heritage Park in Taguig City.

When the Comedy King was rushed to Makati Medical Center last June, because of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), it was his family's turn to appeal for assistance and prayers from the public.

For the past month, the entire nation—much like the Quizon family—had been monitoring Dolphy's condition.

Celebrities from rival stations were united in prayer.

Stars and executives from ABS-CBN, TV5 and GMA 7, usually network foes and camp out on television (and in print interviews), expressing their love for the ailing comedian.

TV5 chair Manny V. Pangilinan and ABS-CBN president Charo Santos-Concio visited him during his first few weeks at the Intensive Care Unit. GMA 7 chair Felipe L. Gozon and other industry leaders extended their good wishes as well.

DOLPHY/ A2

Jojo-Jinggoy tandem shaping up for 2016

Mar-Chiz teamup being worked out

By Gil C. Cabuenas

HAVE Senators Francis "Chiz" Escudero and Jinggoy Estrada gone their separate ways to run for the vice presidency in 2016?

The buzz in Manila's political circles is that the longtime friends have been jockeying for Vice President Jejomar Binay's choice of No. 2 in 2016, and that Estrada has edged out Escudero.

And probably out of the senatorial ticket of the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) for next year's midterm elections as well.

The UNA is a coalition formed earlier this year by Binay's PDP-Laban Party and former President Joseph Estrada's Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP).

The two parties teamed up to dominate the congressional and local races next year, but it is widely believed that Binay will use UNA as a springboard for the 2016 presidential contest and that the deal between him and Estrada was the choice of the younger Estrada as his running mate.

But Escudero, the buzz goes, wants that spot as a reward for

JOJO-JINGGOY/ A12

POLITICS IS MORE FUN IN THE PHILIPPINES In this photo taken on Aug. 30, 2009, Sen. Francis Escudero, then Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay, ex-President Joseph Estrada and then Sen. Mar Roxas put their hands together during the run-up to the 2010 presidential election at Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. Three years later, talk is rife of new alliances in preparation for the 2013 and 2016 elections. HOMEPAGE

EO conflicts with LGUs' laws against mining

By TJ Burgonio, DJ Yap
in Manila
and Inquirer Mindanao

DECLARING ordinances that ban certain types or all mining activities in a number of provinces and towns inconsistent with national laws will pose problems for local government units (LGUs) opposed to mining, officials and environmentalists yesterday said.

The newly signed Executive Order No. 79 directs the Department of the Interior and Local Government to ensure that governors and mayors conform to national regulations and policies.

The EO also confines small-scale mining to areas designated as "minahang bayan," or people's small-scale mining areas.

South Cotabato Gov. Arthur Pingoy said he was not bothered by the new mining policy

ED PISMIS/ A20

P-Noy moves to DENR: No new mining permits in Palawan. / A20

PMA now open to gays but don't show it

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

GAYS MAY enroll at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) but risk a reprimand from a military school proud of its "macho" tradition if they display effeminate behavior.

PMA officials insist they do not discriminate against gays but they expect them to behave

PMA/ A6

House to pass higher tax on mines

By Cynthia D. Balana
and Gil C. Cabuenas

THE HOUSE of Representatives will approve a measure to increase the government's share from mining revenues in support of Malacañang's move to revitalize the mining industry.

Speaker Feliciano Belmonte said yesterday.

"We will certainly be supportive of whatever is needed," Belmonte said when asked about the response of the House of Representatives to Malacañang's call for a law that will increase from 2 percent the excise tax imposed on mining companies," Belmonte said.

President Aquino approved to put in place wide-ranging reforms in the mining industry under Executive Order No. 79, which was issued on Monday to strengthen environmental pro-

HOUSE/ A20

Asean OKs 'conduct rules'; China yet to agree

PHNOM PENH—Ten Southeast Asian nations have agreed on a code of conduct to prevent armed clashes over the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), but they will still seek to get China to agree to it, a Cambodian official said on Monday.

The agreement was reached at a meeting of foreign ministers in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), to which China does not belong.

The issue of contending maritime claims is the major topic of the talks held in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh, in large part because tensions over the strategic waterway have escalated in recent months.

Chinese and Philippine ships engaged in a standoff in disputed area starting in April, and Vietnam last month protested Chinese energy projects in waters both nations claim.

In his opening speech at the Asean meeting, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen urged Southeast Asian countries to do more to promote mutual economic growth and security and called for a code of conduct in the West Philippine Sea to be

ASEAN/ A11

Notorious bandit, 11 others bolt prov'l jail

By Edwin Fernandez
and Charlie C. Señase
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—More rebels tried but failed to free the "Lastdance" when they stormed the North Cotabato provincial jail in Kidapawan City in February. Three people were killed and 15 others wounded.

A day after President Aquino praised jail officials for foiling the attempt by armed men to spring one of their confederates from prison in February, 12 inmates—including the former rebel leader turned bandit—bolted the Maguindanao

NOTORIOUS/ A6

WHAT'S INSIDE

METRO
QC gov't seizes Manila Seedling Bank lot / A26

BUSINESS
Peso is Morgan Stanley's top pick currency / B2

ENTERTAINMENT
Glam stars compare notes about past loves / D1

NEWS
SC issues TRO on fixed pay for bus drivers, conductors / A25
Lauro Vizconde, VACC oppose Justice Antonio Carpio for CJ / A2

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

SUBJECT: The easterlies

Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	Southernmost
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Davao
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cotabato
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu, Bacolod
Virac	Mostly Cloudy	Iloilo, Dumaguete
Catarman	Mostly Cloudy	Zamboanga
Puerto Princesa	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro
Calapan	Mostly Cloudy	Butuan
Coron	Mostly Cloudy	Surigao

Southernmost	Mostly Cloudy
Davao	Mostly Cloudy
Cotabato	Mostly Cloudy
Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Cebu, Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Iloilo, Dumaguete	Mostly Cloudy
Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Butuan	Mostly Cloudy
Surigao	Mostly Cloudy

EZ-2

2 PM	5 20
5 PM	20 22
9 PM	13 2

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

P3,336,966.00

2 PM	5 4 8
5 PM	3 7 6
9 PM	3 1 8

SIX DIGIT (Pares/Impares)

2 PM	9 0 6 0 4 9

4D LUZ, MIN, MIN

2 PM	8 14 18 20 30 34

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

P20,101,101.20

LOTTO: 5PM Tues-SM LOTTO, result to 4PM. PCSO.gov.ph

Leila is first on interview list

JUSTICE Secretary Leila de Lima, said to be a favored contender in the Chief Justice race, will be one of the first applicants to be subjected to public scrutiny when the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) opens the public interviews next week.

In an announcement published in the business yesterday, the JBC said the panel interviews, which will be covered live for the first time, will be held at the Session Hall in the Supreme Court building in Manila.

The JBC also said it will be accepting until July 26 oppositions to the nomination of any of the 22 aspirants in the race vacated by ousted Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Those opposed to the appointment of any nominee should send at least 10 "legible copies" of their sworn complaint, opposition or report to the JBC.

Lawyer Jose Mejia, a JBC member representing academe, said each interview may last for at least 30 minutes.

De Lima will face the JBC panel during July 24's morning session, following the interviews with Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Andres Bautista and lawyer Soledad Cayetano-de Castro.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court yesterday granted the request of Sen. Francis Escudero and Bohol Rep. Niel Tupas Jr. to be given until July 13 to submit their comment on the petition filed by lawyer Francisco Chavez questioning the composition of the JBC.

Marlon Ramos

Anticrime group opposes Carpio as Chief Justice

By Cathy Yamsuan

A NEW, if unsurprising, twist to the search for a new Chief Justice came yesterday in the form of a letter sent to the Judicial and Bar Council by the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) opposing the nomination of Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio.

In 2010, VACC founding president Lani Victorio accused Carpio of using his influence to pressure other high court justices to vote for the acquittal of Jocjoc Webb, the principal suspect in the 1991 murder of Victorio's wife and two daughters.

The tribunal acquitted Webb "with finality" on Dec. 14, 2010, largely because of questions concerning the credibility and personal background of Jessica Alfaro, the prosecution's star witness.

Victorio had told the Inquirer that it was raised Chief Justice Renato Corona, Carpio's rival in the tribunal, who had tipped him off concerning Carpio's alleged intervention.

Old boys' club

The VACC's letter to the JBC yesterday, however, made no mention of what Carpio was supposed to have done in the Victorio massacre case. It instead accused the senior magistrate of "bias," saying he "represents the 'old boys' club' in the Supreme Court."

Victorio said a copy of the VACC's letter of opposition has been sent to President Aquino.

"The President was the one who instructed Justice Secretary Leila de Lima to conduct a reinvestigation [of the Victorio case] and it was just last year when she told a press conference [that] Webb's arrest left the country free from the menace supposedly, contrary to the claims of defense lawyers that he was out of the country," said the 74-year-old widower who now lives alone in the house in BF Homes, Parañaque, where his family was killed.

"That's why we sent a copy to the President. Out of courtesy, because the reinvestigation he ordered helped us in telling the truth come out, despite the acquittal by the Supreme Court," he said.

Victorio himself was not a signatory to the VACC's letter. It was signed by Dante Jimenez, the antivice group's president and founding chair.

But Victorio's lawyer, Ferdinand Topacio, said his client plans to submit a separate letter to supplement the VACC's opposition to Carpio's nomination.

The VACC said it was opposed to Carpio's nomination "because we are gravely concerned that the impaired redress in our criminal justice system that is untimely perceived to be immune powers and corrupt may not be forthcoming with him on the helm of the Supreme Court."

'Biased'

"We believe that Justice Carpio 'will be a biased Chief Justice because he represents the 'old boys' club' in the Supreme Court in the same league as the impeached former Chief Justice Renato Corona," the anticrime organization added.

Jimenez was cited in contempt and fined P100,000 in early 2011 for earning the magistrates who voted to acquit Webb during an impromptu news conference soon after the verdict was announced.

The tribunal also contemplated Victorio's claim that Corona was the one who had warned Victorio of Carpio's alleged lobbying for Webb's acquittal.

In separate affidavits, Jimenez and Victorio said they went to visit Corona in his chambers in 2010 "soon after he assumed the post of [the] Justice in order to congratulate him.

Both said it was during this visit that Corona warned Victorio of Carpio's bias and alleged intervention.

The VACC said the recent removal of Corona from the Supreme Court "inflicted a strong blow to the already infirm institution and threatens to further erode its credibility as a dispenser of justice to victims."

"The appointment of Justice Carpio will just be an empty changing of guards, a change of names and personalities that maintains the ugly status quo," it warned.

Front-runner

Carpio, as the most senior among the Supreme Court justices, is believed to be among the front-runners in the search for Corona's replacement.

He has consistently refused to comment on Herminio's accusations about his alleged intervention in the verdict that led to Webb's acquittal.

Victorio claims that Carpio and Webb's father, the basketball player and ex-senator Freddie Webb, are from same town.

"Remember that Carpio even acted as a witness for the defense during the trial," the widower said.

Victorio was working as a cook in the United States when his wife Estrella, 42, and daughters Camela, 18 and Jennifer, 7, were attacked in the early hours of June 30, 1991.

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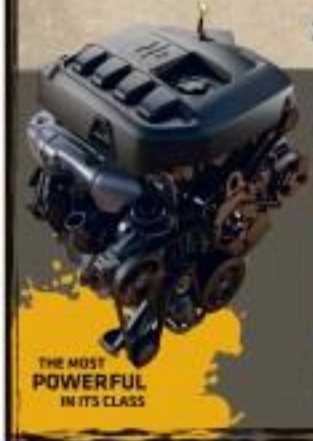

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ang kinabukasan ng marami
ng mga mahal niya sa buhay, ng mga kaibigan,
at ng buong sambayanan.

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Leading independent oil company Phoenix Petroleum celebrates IPO anniversary and 250th station

Today July 11, 2012, Phoenix Petroleum Philippines celebrates two milestones: the fifth year of its initial public offering at the Philippine Stock Exchange, and the opening of its 250th station.

5th Anniversary of Initial Public Offering

In 2007, the public listing of Phoenix Petroleum, a small, entrepreneurial company from Davao City with big dreams, was a success. Phoenix was the first petroleum company to go public since the 1998 Oil Deregulation Law was passed.

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Opening of 250th Phoenix Gas Station

Today's opening of its 250th station has contributed to making Phoenix Petroleum the independent with the highest market share nationwide.

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The 250th station in Isabela, Basco, Cavite is a Phoenix mega-station. It has a retail and air-conditioned restroom, service bay, ATM, credit card facility, and will soon have retail shops and other consumer services.

More and more Phoenix stations offer these modern conveniences beyond fuel. Convenience stores, auto services, and money transfer can also be found in other Phoenix mega-stations.

Parallel with its growing retail network, the Phoenix commercial fuels business continues to expand, with accounts in various growth industries from transportation to energy to construction.

"We at Phoenix Petroleum are proud to be the leading independent oil company in the country today," said President and CEO Dennis Uy. "We thank our stakeholders – banks, business partners, dealers, stockholders, customers – for believing in us and supporting us all these years. We've had an outstanding five years and together we look forward to building the future of the downstream petroleum industry in the Philippines. We will continue to make Phoenix a stronger, dynamic business and a reliable partner in the communities we serve."

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Nursing exec in test leak seeks acquittal

By Leila B. Salaverria

A FORMER board of nursing official has asked the Sandiganbayan to acquit her of criminal charges for allegedly leaking test questions for the 2006 nursing licensure examination.

Evelyn Dioneda, who was earlier ordered dismissed from the service, said in her memorandum before the antigraft court's Fourth Division that the prosecution failed to present any evidence to show that she had leaked the test questions or had violated the law.

Dioneda was one of two officials earlier charged with violation of the Professional Regulations Commission (PRC) head of the antigraft law for allegedly divulging questions in the the psychiatric nursing portion of the 2006 licensure exam.

The nursing scandal had put almost all the examinees under a cloud of doubt, prompting many of them to retake the exam.

Dioneda's case is handled by the Sandiganbayan's Fourth Division, and other accused have asked her memorandum in the court. Memoranda are usually submitted after the parties have finished presenting their evidence.

In her memorandum filed through her lawyer, Dioneda said there was no evidence to link her to the alleged leak of test questions, and it was clearly shown that three were other possible sources of the leaked materials.

She cited the testimonies of the witnesses that the prosecution presented were just hearsay because they did not have personal knowledge about the source of the supposed leaked documents.

According to her, the prosecution witnesses only testified that they obtained copies of the alleged leaked materials from other nursing licensure examinees.

She further said the prosecution did not present a single examinee or a person who could claim to have directly received copies of the supposedly leaked materials prior to the examination date. Their testimony would have proved the actual leakage as well as its source, she added.

"The importance of the testimonies of the examinees cannot be ignored in this case as they can prove not only the source of the alleged 'leaked materials' but also that the said materials were obtained prior to the actual conduct of the NLE (nursing licensure examination)," she said.

Dioneda said the fact that it was not shown that she was the source of the supposed leak-age was enough to acquit her of the charges.

She also contended that the accusation that she leaked the exam questions only stemmed from her being the examiner for the psychiatric nursing portion of the test, but it failed to consider that there were other persons who had access to the test questions before the exams.

There were also other possible sources of the test questions aside from her, but the prosecution turned a blind eye to them, she complained.

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Corrections

IN THE JULY 10 ISSUE, a three-page infographic on raising specialists in the Philippines as of 2030 inadvertently omitted the source. The infographic came from Ibon Foundation.

+++

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a front-page story—"350 roads at risk in eastern sites"—inadvertently omitted the dateline. The story was written in Cabiao, Amenville.

+++

IN THE SAME ISSUE, an Across the Nation story on Page A9—"MMDA retires' list up started with Estal"—erroneously referred to Commission on Elections spokesperson James Jimenez as a commissioner.

+++

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Philippine Daily Inquirer, PIA Building, 5 Ortigas Road Avenue, Greenhills, 1502 Metro Manila, fax 896-6214, e-mail info@inquirer.com.ph.

The Daily Gospel

Wednesday - July 11, 2012
14th Week in Ordinary Time
Benedict

1st Reading: Hos 8:1-3, 7-8, 12

Israel has a spiraling view, rich in food. The more fat food increased, the more they became hostile to prayers.

This is how it divided: "Woe shall pay for it. Their altars will be thrown down and their sacred statues broken to pieces.

Here they say, "We have no king (because we have no fear of God) and what good would a king do us?"

As for the kings of Samaria, he has been cast off like filthy water.

The idolatrous high places—the sin of Israel—will be destroyed. Thorn and thistle will spring over the altars. Then they will say to the mountains: "Cover us," and to the hills: "Fall on us."

Now new ground, now for repentance (private and inspire heavens of kindness. It is the time to go among "inherit and for reason to take advantage you.

Gospel: Matthew 10:1-7

Jesus called his 12 disciples to him and gave them authority over the unclean spirits to drive them out and to heal every disease and sickness.

These are the names of the 12 apostles: First Simon, (called Peter), and his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon, the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, the man who would betray him.

Jesus sent these 12 on mission with the following instructions: "Do not visit pagan territory and do not enter a Samaritan town. Instead go to the lost sheep of the people of Israel.

"On and proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.'"

Reflection

When you look at the phrase "twelve disciples" you see 12 very ordinary men. There were many scribes in the country, men who were learned in the Law. But Jesus chose none of them. The Kingdom of God is open to all of us, not just to learned people. He did not divide people into ordinary and special. He did not even distinguish between one who'd and the other on the cross. He only one who obtained the final thief was the good thief.

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Notorious bandit, 11 others bolt . . .

From page A1

provincial jail here shortly after midnight yesterday.

Two of the escapees were immediately captured, police said. The provincial jail on PC Hill is just a few blocks away from the city police headquarters and a military detachment.

"They are dangerous people. We would like my residents and constituents of nearby Maguindanao province not to report to us any sighting of these criminals," Datinor Ingki, Datny Bejeo, city police chief, told a radio station.

Among those who escaped was Dandam Mominik Samad, alias "Lumbikan," who is facing a string of criminal charges, including carnaling, robbery hamdbags, extortion and kidnapping.

Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo said he was "saddened" by the jailbreak, which happened after the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) marked its 21st anniversary at the Philippine National Police (PNP) headquarters at Camp Crame in Quezon City on Monday.

The President, who was the main guest of the celebration, said in a speech that while it was "good news" for the BJMP to improve its recovery rate of escapees to 66 percent, "wouldn't it be better if nobody would escape from our jails one?"

He lauded jail authorities for improving prison conditions and releasing the February said to free himself. "Despite a desperate attempts by some armed groups to free one of the prisoners, they were forced to retreat because our brave men from the BJMP did not waver," he said.

Bejeo identified the other escapee as Fa Selim Sharmod, Bong Ibrag, Amenar Magpod, Jubail Dingalalah, Bimbo Pasal, Abel Usering, Jagkrom Ibrag, Sadjama Kamlo, Idjo Pilas, Eng Kimbao and Jampey Kimbao, who are facing charges ranging from drug pushing to murder and frustrated murder.

Mamood and Ibrag were immediately recaptured while trying to cross the Rio Grande de Mindanao, said Supt. Modelo Martinez, deputy city police director.

Nimfrey Kaman Uldin said the prisoners sawed off the iron bars of the window near the toilet inside their cell, and fled at 1:30 a.m. He said they could have long planned their escape. With reports from BJ Sig and Gil C. Cabacungan in Manila

CRIME AGAINST THE MINDS

The June 18, 2012 column of Conrado De Quiros in the Philippine Daily Inquirer entitled "Crimes of the Mind" may be aptly renamed "Crime Against the Minds". It is a four-paragraph long rhetorical maze with well-woven fallacies intended to hype Koko Pimentel's entry in the national politics.

A fallacy or sophism is a false argument that appears to be true. According to Juan Jose Sanguinetti, a catholic priest author of a Logic textbook, "sophisms usually begin by appealing to some genuine truths. However, these truths are often presented in such an ambiguous and general way that they are easily distorted. This manipulation of apparent truth is important to win over the unguarded listeners since stark error can never have any appeal".

The column opens with some mumbo-jumbo statements, similar to that we usually hear in barber shops or public markets, to ridicule Erap's forthcoming demeanor towards Koko's childish political tantrum against Migz Zubiri. Then it transitioned into a litany of fallacies that viciously cast aspersions upon Migz.

But because no significant fault could be found against the honorable Zubiri, the pathetic column could only revolve around the often-repeated exaggerated accusation that Migz is as guilty as the former president GMA for being the beneficiary of that alleged vote padding in Maguindanao during the 2007 national election. The column skipped the hard facts that there never was an iota of evidence that Migz directly participated in that electoral fraud if indeed there was truth to it; that Migz went through the whole rigorous legal process and scrutiny before he was declared the winner; that it was no less than the Supreme Court which cleared and declared him the winner; that at the surfacing of a mere testimony later that cast doubts on his victory, Migz quickly, voluntarily and magnanimously turned-over his post to Koko. But look what Koko and De Quiros have done in turn! They crudely mocked Migz in public just to popularize Koko's political entry. That was immoral and vicious in every sense. Migz has nary a chance to defend himself at once. And even if he can react later, the damage upon his reputation which he painstakingly built over the years may already be irreparable.

De Quiros failed to give proper credit to whom credit is due. Koko has yet to prove himself but Migz has already given 14 years of clean and honest service, especially to us Mindanaoans. Migz has authored many high-impact legislations such as the Mindanao Development Authority Act of 2010, the creation of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos Act of 2009, the Socialized and Low-Cost Housing Loan Condonation Program, the Cooperative Code of 2008, and many more which will not fit here if I mention them all. Migz also has given all Local Government Units in Mindanao projects ranging from classrooms, day care centers, health centers, roads, multi-purpose buildings etc., a feat rarely if not accomplished by any senator so far.

For all its intents and purposes, the column deliberately ignored the standard structure and general rules of reasoning just so it can take liberty in cunningly injecting into the minds of the readers its preconceived intention - that to equate with virtue Koko's arrogance, disrespect of his senior equals in UNA and trash talks against Migz. When did dominating character become a virtue? Within the natural hierarchy and community of things, it is a pathological disease. That exactly characterized the demeanors of Koko, who, while submitting under the fading political shadow of his dad, tries to make his own presence in the political community more dramatic by moving around like a bull going berserk.

He is totally antithetical to that well-mannered nature of Migz Zubiri - who meekly prevails through his own excellent performance - in congress, in the senate and in his own community in Bukidnon. In fact ever since Migz was elected since 1998 up to his resignation in 2011 he has never incurred any absence in both houses which highlights his commitment, passion and dedication to his work. The adversarial politics of Koko can never be a pride of Mindanao. That explains why in the first place he, and his entire PDP-Laban slate, was outrightly rejected when he ran for mayor in Cagayan de Oro City in 2001. During the 2007 election, he lost in his own hometown to Migz by a wide margin of votes. In fact, Migz was number one in Misamis Oriental, the home province of his dad. Now, even his own wife gave up on him. Who are left giving him company is his dad and a few loyal followers, like Mr. De Quiros, who are willing to sacrifice their Logic 101 just to sell Koko's "principled politics" "kunwhay" to the innocent minds of the filipinos. There may be some who may still be deceived, *pero ang mga tapi Mindanao ay 'khapin ikli sa good mental use.*

Now, which is which? "Crimes of the mind" or "Crime against the minds"? Fallacies are like that serpentine guile in the garden of Eden that deceived Eve into thinking that the forbidden food was "desirable to make one wise." All of us need redemption - personally and as a nation. Our country is socially, economically and environmentally ill. That Migz refused to talk back trash may after all be an indicator that he, being a new breed of a politician, finds our conventional adversarial politics as boring, obsolete, stifling, self-destructive and unjust.

How about we say that both Migz and Koko are simply victims of our country's prevailing dirty political paradigm? That in their respective sincere desire to find their individual identity and functional role within, they are overwhelmed by the evil forces that dominate the whole system? Probably, at this level of enlightenment, we may say that we are not supposed to further sow anger, hatred, and disunity after all but understanding, love and reconciliation. These two budding politicians are the cream of the crop of Mindanao politics right now. They are both highly intelligent. While Migz has already demonstrated his intellectual and moral transcendence, Koko, a bar topnotcher, can easily redeem himself if he stops his acrimonious politics and fight for a better Mindanao instead. Mindanao, with all its vast physical resources, may yet become our country's center and frontier for global economic competitiveness and transcendence. We need them both. We need the driving force of politics to solve our social, economic and environmental problems in Mindanao. It is time that we strive for "politics of transcendence" - through a harmonious and interdependent political interaction.

Reaction sent by:

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PAID ADVT

PMA now open to gays but . . .

From page A1

the way cadets should. In any case, they say, gay cadets eventually leave the PMA anyway before completing the four-year course to become they cannot stand the rigors of training.

The PMA spokesman appears to be in confirmation the stance taken by US President Barack Obama and the American Congress, which in September last year formally repealed a 17-year-old discriminatory law known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

The abolished former law bars learned openly gay men, lesbians and bisexuals from military service. Obama said the law's repeal meant that members of the US Armed Forces "will no longer have to lie about who they are in order to serve the country they love."

No ban

According to the PMA superintendent, Maj. Gen. Nonato Pacatte Jr., the country's premier military training school does not bare away applicants because they are gay. He said that would be a violation of human rights.

But he admitted that learning gays men not yet quite accepted in the PMA.

"We do not prohibit them. As it is in Filipino culture, (gays are) not yet very acceptable right. So Philippine society is under transition. That is also how it is in the PMA. We cannot say (gays) are prohibited. We, they're not prohibited. We have graduates here yesterday during a visit to the Armed forces of the Philippines headquarters in Camp Emilio Aguinaldo."

Capt. Agnes Flores, PMA spokesperson, said gays were not discriminated against but "once they are admitted to the PMA they are required to behave the way the cadets are supposed to behave."

"So, anyone who displays gay behavior would be reprimanded because that's not what is expected of them. They enter our institution and they are to follow the rules and regulations of our organization," she stressed.

Flores claimed that school officials had observed that gay cadets apparently could not cope with the demands of training.

"Those (gays) who can't cope, (and the training) (until) they themselves say they cannot take it any more and they leave the Academy," she said.

High survival rate

On his other hand, women cadets have a "high survival rate" and make it through graduation, Flores said.

"Their (the gays) left because they cannot cope with the training. It's not because they are discriminated against but because of the requirements in training," she said.

Flores admitted there were some gays among PMA graduates but she said these military officers did not show gay behavior while in the Academy.

"There were some, there are (gay PMA graduates). Maybe he was able to graduate because during the training in the Academy themselves no opportunity for his (gay) tendencies (to show). When he left the academy that's when it came out," Flores said.

She pointed out that PMA gay graduates were not known to have abused their position as military officers.

Annual exams

The PMA will hold its annual entrance exams this year on Aug. 26 in 37 testing centers nationwide. The incoming batch will comprise the PMA Class 2017.

For the first time, the PMA has lowered the height requirement for both male and female applicants to 5 feet. Previously, the height requirement was 5'4" for male applicants and 5'2" for female applicants.

The other requirements are: one should be a natural-born Filipino citizen, physically fit and of good moral character, single and has never been married, at least a graduate of high school, without criminal records or convictions and should have been born between April 1, 1991 and April 1, 1996.

The PMA has lifted the required minimum average grade of 85 for high school graduates who wish to enter the PMA.

Submission of applications is until Aug. 15.

Applicants may also apply online at www.pma.ph and the exam before the Aug. 26 exams.

With a report from Jaymin Rosario

Hip-hop star here for Manila concert

By Pachuko Concepcion
Entertainment

HIP-HOP star Nicki Minaj arrived in Manila yesterday for her concert on Wednesday at the Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay City.

Minaj, 29, is one of the world's hottest recording artists this debut album, "Pink Friday," released in November 2010, sold a million copies after only a month, and went No. 1 on the BillBoard chart.

She was born in Trinidad and Tobago and moved to Queens, New York when she was five. She played the clarinet in grade school in Lafayette High School, known for its visual and performing arts program, she enrolled in drama after finishing her singing audition because she lost her voice at the time.

She was discovered by rapper, popstar Lil Wayne, who signed her up with his record label, Young Money Entertainment, in August 2009.

Minaj's collaborations with other artists have set new records on BillBoard's Hot 100, logging the most singles on the chart at one time—among them Lil Wayne's "Knockout," Trey Songz' "Bottom Up," Usher's "Lil Freak," Sean Kingston's "Loving Us (Daily Love)," and Jay Sean's "Did It (It Ain't the End)."

"Super Bass," Minaj's seventh single from "Pink Friday," has been certified quadruple platinum (4 million copies sold) by the Recording Industry Association of America.

Her second studio album, "Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded," was released in April.

Her concert at the MOA Arena is a production of 9Cbox Live and presented by Globe Telecom and SkinDeep.

No banana ban in China

THE COUNTRY'S embassy in Beijing is disputing the claim made by agriculture officials and President Aquino himself that China has virtually shut out banana exports from the Philippines.

In a "notice to the public" posted on its website, the embassy claimed "to date, there has never been any suspension by the Chinese government of the entry of bananas from the Philippines for as long as these past the food and safety standards and requirement of the People's Republic of China."

"Therefore, bananas from the Philippines continue to be sold in China," the embassy claimed.

The embassy also insisted that the issuance of visas to Chinese travelers to the Philippines "has never been interrupted."

The Beijing mission, along with Philippine consulates in Shanghai, Xiamen, Chongqing, and Guangzhou, "continue to issue visas to Chinese individual and group travelers to the Philippines," it said.

Jerry E. Esplanada

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SRP = Minimum Bid Price

By Michael Lim Ubac

EXECUTIVE EMPLOYEES and officials will be among those who will benefit from the biggest national budget ever proposed by a sitting president to Congress.

The General Appropriations Act (GAA) for 2013, which will be transmitted to Congress a day after the state of the nation address (Sona) of President Aquino on July 23, allocates P1.6 trillion to P1.65 billion for the performance-based incentives of the one million strong bureaucracy.

Malacañang hopes the performance-based incentive system will strengthen accountability and encourage productivity in state agencies.

In a press conference, Budget Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad said the Aquino administration was working to "harmonize all performance management systems in government and to deepen performance-based budgeting."

The performance scheme will reward agencies and public servants who meet and even surpass their performance targets.

If approved, the first wave of performance bonuses will be granted in early 2013, with amounts ranging from P13,000 to P35,000, depending on an employee's productivity.

The performance bonuses will be on top of their existing productivity enhancement incentive bonuses which are sourced from the savings of individual agencies.

Abad said the incentive and bonus systems of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) will also be streamlined due to abuses in the past.

According to the budget chief, the Government Commission for GOCCs (GCG) are in the process of preparing an incentive system for GOCC employees, which will be separate from the performance-based system of national government agencies.

He noted that President Aquino had cited the situation at the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage Administration, the Land and Water Utilities Administration, among other agencies, "where they really abused the use of government funds to grant themselves so many allowances and bonuses that actually had no legal basis."

Abad said the DBM was now reviewing those allowances, and limiting them to what was authorized under an existing executive order.

The proposed P2-trillion national budget for 2013 is 30.5 percent higher than the P1.534-trillion budget for the current fiscal year.

With Bernard W. Taguinod

Party-list rules tightened

PARTY-LIST groups that win the required number of votes in 2013 and are awarded seats in the House of Representatives may not replace their nominees or change the order of nominees, according to the Commission on Elections.

The poll body said that under Republic Act No. 7941, or the Party-List System Act of 1995, as well as a relevant Supreme Court ruling, a nominee expelled by a party-list group remains a nominee and is eligible to represent the party-list group in the House.

"[T]his arrangement may result in an odd situation where one remains a member of the House under the banner of a particular party-list of which he is no longer a member. Odd as it is, it is the law that mandates it. Thus, until the [RA 7941] is amended, we have no other recourse but to implement its provisions as we find it," the Comelec en banc ruled.

Jeremiah Belgica

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CAMBODIA KILLER

Mystery disease nothing new in PH

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IT TURNS out that the Philippines is not exactly new to the milder forms of the virus that has killed many children in Cambodia.

The Department of Health (DOH) yesterday said enteroviruses 71 (EV-71) infections have been occurring in the country, though reported only sporadically, but the disease is mostly "self-very rare."

Health Secretary Enrique Ona and the World Health Organization also clarified in a joint statement yesterday that the Cambodian EV-71 was of the encephalomyelitis and not found from acute mild disease (HFMD), a mild viral illness, as health experts earlier announced.

Ona explained that the virus, excreted in human feces, causes different diseases of varying intensity, which includes the usually mild HFMD, acute respiratory disease, acute flaccid paralysis and the deadly brainstem encephalitis. It is this latter that caused the death of more than 50 children in Cambodia.

The Cambodian victims experienced fever followed by rapid respiratory deterioration and impaired consciousness. Death occurred 24 hours after hospital confinement, said Ona.

To reassure that the Philippines remains free of the deadly strain of the EV71, Ona has directed all hospitals and health providers to report to the DOH individual cases, or even

SC justice, DENR chief, Drilon brod told to return ₱5M

By Marlon Ramos

THE SUPREME Court has ordered one of its own justices, a brother of Sen. Franklin Drilon and other former executive members of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) to return some ₱5.5 million in allowances they received in 2006 which the Commission on Audit (COA) declared as illegal.

In a 13-page resolution, the high court threw out the petition filed by Peza seeking a reconsideration of the COA's Sept. 12, 2006, order which ruled that the per diem allowances that the former Peza board members got for attending their meeting was a violation of the Constitution.

In sustaining the COA decision, the court dismissed the argument of Peza Director General Lilia de Lima that the allowances were given to it by the officials "in good faith."

Citing its ruling to a similar case, the tribunal held that Republic Act No. 6758, which amended RA 7916, or the Philippine Economic Zone Act of 1995, was enacted by Congress to "cure such defect" of the earlier law which authorized Peza board members to receive per diem allowances.

"The court find the petitioners' denial of merit ... Neither can the court give credence to Peza's claim of good faith," read a portion of the petition.

It said the principle of good faith "is ordinarily used to describe that state of mind denoting honesty of intention and freedom from knowledge of circumstances."

"Definitely Peza cannot claim that it was not aware of circumstances pointing to the possible illegality of the disbursements of per diems to the excellent members of the board," the court ruled.

It said Section 13, Article VII of the 1987 Constitution stated that "a public official holding an excellent position as provided by law has no right to receive additional compensation for the ex-officio position."

Associate Justice Bienvenido Reyes, then an ex-officio Peza board member as labor secretary, was ordered to return P177,800 to DOH.

On the other hand, the court said Drilon's brother, Cesar Drilon Jr., was not entitled to receive P82,000 from Peza while Environment Secretary Ramon Paje was directed to refund P757,800 to the government.

Endodontic society to mark 30th year

THE 30TH Biennial of the Endodontic Society of the Philippines (ESP) and its induction ceremony will be held on Saturday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Bonifacian Hall of Unilab in Pasig City.

The occasion marks the 30th year of the ESP and the inauguration of the incoming president, Dr. Isabel G. Campos-Ibanez, and other officers. The program includes lectures by three foreign specialists in the field of endodontics from Hong Kong and Malaysia and one Filipino pediatric dentist.

ESP was established in 1982 with five charter members, all renowned dentists—Pedro Amalin, Virginia Toledo, Edna Abaran, Ernesto Moreno and Sanseviera Buenaflor. They were joined by like-minded practitioners who shared the vision of coming together to seek better endodontics to general practitioners. The group has grown to 40 active members, 300 affiliate members and 50 faculty affiliates.

Dr. Pantao graduated from the University of the Philippines, College of Dentistry and went on to obtain her postgraduate residency training in endodontics from the School of Dental Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. She then taught at The New York University and at the University of the Philippines before settling on her private practice at Rockwell in Makati.

The other officers are: Robin de la Cruz, president-elect; Raimel C. Maquiz, secretary; Vivian Gabaldon, assistant secretary; Maria Josefa E. Bajo-montero, treasurer; Annmarie Velez, assistant treasurer; Jeanette Dagohoy, auditor; Dr. Bienvenido C. Ybiernas, PRO; and Janie C. See, Melinda E. Gonzalez, Cecille F. Santos and Ismael G. Jugo, board members.

More information on the biennial convention and other endodontic workshops of the ESP may be obtained from Dr. Jo Nepomuceno at 832-5093/163, 0917-831-2412 and 0917-832-3413; Dr. Ani Pagtalunan at 0917-368-8227 and 332-2111/836; and at jo_nepo@yahoo.com.

Federal Land keeps farmers in min as country's economy booms

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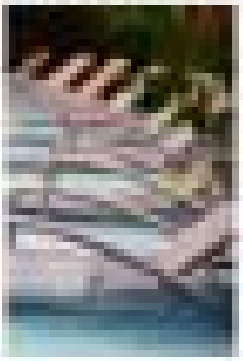

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OPINION

Send letters to the Editor: inquirer.opinion@inquirer.com.ph

One of us

EDITORIAL

HIS NAME was Wilhelmus JJ Lutz Geerteman. A native of Holland, he left his country 46 years ago and settled in the Philippines—not in any of its cities, but in its poor, desperate outskirts, where, for the rest of his life until his murder on July 7, he worked tirelessly for the betterment of the marginalized communities around him.

An executive director of the non-governmental group Alay Bayan-Luzon Inc., he held office in a middle-class subdivision in Aurora province whose main road, oddly called the Rue de Barre, was perhaps the closest reminder he had of his European roots.

But it's a safe bet Geertsman never gave the street name a fateful glance, as he had cast his eyes somewhere else. "His coworkers tell me he was more Filipino than Dutch," said his brother Antonius, who flew in from the Netherlands with sister Maria Elisabeth for the grim task of burying Geertsman in the province and country he had long called his own. The siblings were joined by some 1,000 mourners, many of them the poorest of the poor and recipients of Geertsman's generosity and compassion through the years, in giving their brother a final, grateful send-off.

They were thankful for the fact that Geertsman was, to be blunt about it, not only more Filipino than Dutch but also more Filipino than many citizens of this country. Much of his 67 years was spent trying to make a difference in ordinary Filipinos' lives—specifically, to empower them, fight for their welfare, and give them a decent place in the social order.

In the 1960s, he taught Dumagat, Aeta, Cordilleran and Bontoc elders to write and count to allow them to manage their own affairs without being supplanted by traders and moneylenders. He also taught them how to form their successful heads efficiently. Before that, he organized swineherds and workers in Luzon shipyards into unions, then spearheaded agriculture and literacy programs in Bukid and other towns. He raised money for the scholarships of students, trained people on disaster preparedness, and joined the fight for human rights, agrarian reform and responsible mining. The small pension he received from the Dutch government he even shared with farmers and the poor.

"Who was a foreigner but he lived like one of us," said Marievich Corpuz, chair of Barangay Nga Kawayan sa Sierra Madre. "We are what we are. He did not make us feel that we were different from us or he was better than us. He treated every one the same."

Was his death at the hands of still unidentified gunmen a case of plain robbery, as a result of his tenacious, committed work on such causes? The police think a premeditated heist is the simplest explanation, because Geertsman was reportedly carrying some P1.2 million he had earlier withdrawn from a bank, to be used for his scholarships. After shooting him in the back, his killers fled with the money.

But the prominence of Geertsman's social work—his opposition to mining, logging and the commercialization of agricultural land in Aurora, for instance—lends plausibility to the suspicion, immediately voiced by those closest to him, that he was killed chiefly because his activities were increasingly becoming a bane to powerful, shadowy interests. His reported ties with Hacienda Lotsina farmers have been cited as a possible reason for the "politically motivated" killing, though Alay Bayan-Luzon spokesperson Loren Villareal has said it was unlikely he was killed for this reason: "We tend to link Wim's death to his anti-corporate mining and logging stance, and to his being a staunch environmentalist."

Whatever the motivations behind it, Geertsman's death is a tragedy. More than that, it is an outrage—the latest blood-soaked evidence of the government's sheer inability to stop the extrajudicial killings that have continued to define the country as a land of lawlessness and impunity. Geertsman's death is the 15th such killing to occur under the two-year-old Aquino administration, which people had hoped would be able to stem the tide of unanimous (about 305) that marked the presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. But no respite is in sight.

Geertsman could have stayed in his native land and lived a comfortable life, but "home is the Philippines, particularly Aurora," he had told those around him. With his death, the Philippines has lost an outstanding citizen, whatever citizenship is named in his passport. If this country knows how to be grateful, it should demand that the government act, at last, to make Geertsman's death the last of its kind.

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City Hall padlocks Seedling Bank

THE MANILA Seedling Bank, that little bit of green in the concrete and squatter jungle of Quezon Avenue, has long filled the planting needs of Metro Manila and the rest of the country. From it, one can buy not only rare tree seedlings but also vegetable seeds, ornamental plants, cut flowers, fertilizers and other gardening needs. It also provides a great living for Quezon City officials nearly broke in parks.

The Seedling Bank also provides gardening services and advice to home gardeners. After a storm, you can rely on its personnel helping clear streets of fallen trees, for free. During the last storm, a huge acacia tree in front of our house toppled and leaned on the roof. I called the Seedling Bank for help and it sent several workers in a pickup truck and carefully cut the tree pieces by piece to avoid further damage and took the debris away. It took them a week to finish the job and I don't have to pay them anything.

The Quezon City government should have an agency like that to address the needs of its residents. It should also have an animal welfare agency to take care of the pet needs of the residents. It has more than enough funds to do those things instead of letting councilors steal the money.)

The Seedling Bank also enhanced a whole mountain in Tanay, Rizal, with flowering plants. How the area looks from the highway (Sapang Jr. In fact, it probably has more pine trees than Baguio, whose primary attraction in the old days was its pine trees.

Officials of Quezon City and of the national government should be thankful that we have a Seedling Bank that's quietly, for free, what the government should be doing.

But instead of being thankful, what did the Quezon City government do? Last Tuesday, the city administration padlocked the gates of the Seedling Bank. Nobody could get in or out, not even the workers and the trees. Quezon City said that will die after several days without water.

What was the reason? Nonpayment of real estate taxes, according to City Hall. But the city government is cheating from the big to the

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

first place, the owner of the lot is the National Housing Authority (NHA). The Seedling Bank is only a concessionaire (operational device. City Hall should go after the owner for the payment of realty taxes, not the lessee.

In the second place, shouldn't City Hall issue a collection notice first before snooping down on the place and closing it down, a move that will result in losses and damage to the nursery—not garden shops doing business in the Seedling Bank? But City Hall issued no collection notice. Instead, it surprised the Seedling Bank's management by sending police men and City Hall personnel to padlock the gates.

City Hall has long resented the Seedling Bank gardens. It wants to remove the place, along with the Ninoy Aquino Wildlife Park and even the Veterans Memorial Hospital golf course, to, as chairman-farmer Jo-ann Maglaya says, "create a continuous forest. In other words, those lots of open space with greenery and fresh air would be transformed into a concrete jungle. The NHA, in connivance with City Hall, had earlier tried to seize the Seedling Bank gardens. But the foundation has a valid lease agreement and went to court, which ordered the NHA to desist. City Hall obviously cannot wait for the injunction to expire. So it used its dummy Congress to padlock the gardens without any court order.

But there is plenty of government land on the other side of Quezon Avenue, where the Fidel Agcaoili Lot used to be. Only, it is now owned by a squatter colony that has spread up to the Bureau of Animal Industry premises. Why doesn't City Hall reclaim this land and build its business district there? How can you have a reputable business district when just across the street from it is a colony of squatters? But of course City Hall is afraid of squatters because they are voters. So instead of going after lawbreakers, it is going after law-abiding citizens.

• • •

The Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is running out of gimmicks but the traffic situation in the metropolis, especially on Edsa, is getting from worse to worst. Last Monday, traffic was at a standstill on the whole length of Edsa. Why? Because it was the first day of the MMDA's latest order: All buses must stay inside the yellow lanes and are banned from the center lanes. They must use the flyovers.

But only a few bus drivers are obeying the MMDA. Buses swerve out of the yellow lanes at will and even occupy the three left lanes reserved for private vehicles. And on the whole length of Edsa from Makati to Quezon City to the south evening on Monday, I did not see a single MMDA traffic enforcer to direct traffic. Probably they were all in the restaurants having dinner instead of directing traffic.

I didn't see any motorcycle cop either. Probably they were overeating, kissed or wedding procession, or some VIPs.

Motorcycle cops are supposed to stop moving violations and chase speedsters and reckless drivers and in all the time that I have been roaming Edsa and Commonwealth Avenue, I have never seen a single motorcycle cop chase a speeding vehicle or a vehicle swerving from lane to lane. Some time ago, a photograph appeared in the newspapers of fifteen police motorcycles (the entire police detailed by a generous corporation. What happened to those motorcycles? Where are the motorcycle cops? Every now and then, I hear the wail of sirens and the roar of motorcycle engines, and a whole pack of them come zooming by. Probably they are escorting some VIPs. But I don't think there are that many VIPs, or funeral and wedding processions, to **mount as to need the services of all of them.** So where are they?

'Trapo'

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

I DOUBT (and your) election would be more (indistinct than the last. The 2010 election was not the risk but the exception. It was one of those rare times when this country voted on the basis of principle rather than personality, on the basis of hated versus hate (versus. Like the 1972 election, which came a few months after the Plaza Miranda bombing, when the voters voted overwhelmingly against Marcos' candidates, like the "trapo" electorate 1986 where the voters voted popularly—voted state terrorism, dismissed by the majority of Manila voters, against Marcos himself. We could also call it a power vote and you wouldn't be far off the mark.

Those things happen only once in a blue, or yellow, moon. I knew next year's election was not going to be like that. It was going to be more traditional. I just didn't know how traditional. The way things are shaping up, it's going to be traditional to the core.

It's going to be a trapo election.

You can understand why UNA will lose in that direction, but why is Gordy, or Edsa's version thereof, Duterte's party—he hasn't been a rally in spite (like Nereus hands in body)—do so as well?

The roots lie in P-Noy's campaign itself, which was schizophrenic from the beginning, consisting as it did of traditional politicians and reformists, the latter represented by the advocates of People Power, believers in "our time has come" and believers in "the time for change has come." Despite repeated affirmations that pragmatism and idealism are not opposed, that the ways of power politics and the ways of People Power are not irreconcilable, which assertions like Locke and Jacobites, the two were antagonistic and the conflict reared its ugly head repeatedly. Not least because the politicians made it a point to try to control the campaign, the better to reap the spoils after word. They did control the campaign, and they did reap the spoils after word.

But it is not to them P-Noy owes his victory. P-Noy won not because of them but in spite of them.

Or put another way, P-Noy won not because

of pragmatism but because of idealism. He won them in the first place not because of pragmatism but because of idealism. He won them not because he was the strongest candidate in the opposition party, the one person who had built a network of alliances, a formidable electoral organization, a record of skillfully navigating through elections. He won them because he was seen as the opposite of Gloria. He won them because he was the one person who was seen to put an end to the lying, the cheating and the stealing, the murders, the manhem, and the all around madness. He won them because he was seen, because he all the votes of political pragmatism and trapo-ism, he was—weak.

And the weak shall triumph. And the meek shall inherit the earth.

One thing drove the Binay hosts to an early on. It was some people saying P-Noy's nonsocial date ought to take the "lumot" candidate? Was she Estrada and the Marcoses, time to bury the hatchet, release sentenge clearing hello public. P-Noy was already now to become president, they said, his survey numbers were way off the charts, what he needed was the numbers to control Congress with. That was the only way he could push his agenda.

I was astonished by that remark. I said I had always thought P-Noy's strength lay in his image, which, not unlike his mother's, was that of a flicker of light in a storm tossed sea. The certainty of his becoming president lay in that image being preserved at all costs, not in it with open demonstrations of cowarding with the enemy and that certainty would disappear as fast as it appeared. While at that, even if he won in those circumstances, what could he expect to do? Beat the agenda of fighting corruption on the shoulders of the Estradas and the Marcoses?

True enough, P-Noy's numbers plummeted at one point, the record highs turning to record lows. Pinch loaves and fishes had refused his gambling at the human range of the ladder so. If he threw his fortunes with P-Noy, rising the Arc he scaled down his ambitions to vice president. There were many reasons for P-Noy's fall in the public esteem. The meeting of Edsa was one of them. Just as there were many reasons for P-Noy recovering in time. The rediscovery of the core of Edsa was chief of them.

You need no further proof of it than that those failed to realize even his scaled down ambitions. P-Noy survived the decline by terms (thanks to Edsa) and shifting track to idealism mode. Binay did not. By wearing blue (shifting to yellow only in the last minutes) and walking to trapo mode.

Why am I not surprised that the trapo in the campaign, who claimed credit for P-Noy's victory and who convinced the bulk of the spoils—yes, spoils—as small thanks to the most modest and shameless lobbying and emotional blackmailing, should be willing to play footsies with Manny Villar, Jinggoy Estrada, and Gordon Cobanggui? Why am I not surprised that Dr. Binay should have thought of the same thing? I hope P-Noy's campaign and will very likely bring down his campaign to fight corruption, would be willing to sorrow politically if not indeed as Asher Salvar member of the Makatizens gun club, the Garand of Cebu?

I don't know that they will win by tarnishing the image, by spattering mud on the one compassion advantage they have over the opposition by their association with P-Noy. But even if they did, it will not be a victory for the country. It will not be a victory in the fight against corruption. It will not be a victory for the dauntless Filipino. It will be a victory only for trapo-ism, trapo-based, uniting hapless to hatred-ism.

My apologies to the trapo, or the much maligned trapo. At least they are clean things.

This one just adds to the dirt.

Stress and learning

COMMENTARY

Leonardo Lesmoldes

When monkeys are chronically stressed and then frozen put under the electronic microscope, they showed similar findings to the memory brain cells. This is a result of the stress hormone called cortisol. Cortisol, which goes up and stays elevated during prolonged stress. With reduced function in the memory cells, it is easy to understand why learning is compromised.

When I was a primary student, we had several teachers who we called "terio." They were strict and shouted at us when a student gave a wrong answer. I was stressed out when watching the lessons, and I cannot remember most of the lessons. However, when our teachers were funny and never raised their voice, I learned much better and I felt good.

Students suffering from chronic stress don't do well in math, don't process language efficiently, have poor memory, and cannot readily adapt old information to new problems. In my professional training, stressed students or students generally perform poorly. In our study, adults with high stress levels performed 50 percent lower than those with low stress in life.

Unfortunately, the effects of stress are not limited to learning and are also the harbinger of depression. Prolonged stress, especially when severe, can push students to depression and even to suicide. In a recent flight to Manila, I read a newspaper article stating that the suicide rate among students in certain region in South Korea was the highest in the world because the competition for admission to the best university was highly valued. In that area during the time of examinations, the environment should be as quiet as possible to the extent that even airplanes are not allowed to land or take off.

In my second year of medical school, one student in our university section committed suicide. It was also a time when I felt I was at the end of the rope of persistence. I was stressed because of my studies and the financial situation of my parents. Instead of them finished high school, who survived on the earnings of their small tailoring shop and laundry parlor. There was a semester when my mother could not come up with me in time. One night, I could not take it anymore. I ran out of the house, crying, and punching a duck. Sobbo in my mother's house. When my mother came out of the house, I told her I wanted to quit medical school. After hearing her calm voice and plea that I continue with my studies, I settled down.

I remember that during my first few days in college, we were screened in the library and told the time and then it was open, how to borrow a book, when to return it, and the fine for lateness.

If we can teach students about the library and why and teach them also how the brain works so they can learn better and more refined habits, just like parents with an authentic child rushing the child to an emergency room and hospital on discharge?

We are lucky that the 21st century has brought us many new cognitive research results that can be used to help our children. To get the benefit from these results, it is our duty to use them.

Welcome to the age of evidence-based education.

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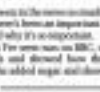
Magical science

THE HIGGS boson has been in the news so much lately. People have some sense that there's been an important discovery, but aren't sure what it is and why it's so important.

The best explanation I've seen was on BBC, where a scientist brought some balls and dressed how they just rolled around nice too. Then he added magic and showed how some of the bigger balls now began to clump with each other. The magic was supposed to resemble a Higgs field, whose exclusive subatomic forces that affect mass, that allow mass atoms to come together. Without this, we would not have the universe as it is today.



PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Some physicists will probably cringe at that explanation, but as it holds the need to "translate" science for the lay public. And I also tell you there were all kinds of attempts for this Higgs boson. Although the simple sugar and balls demonstration was the cleanest, my favorite is a video posted on YouTube explaining the Higgs collider (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0NH6vOHFG), which has received more than 7 million views. The rap video features a physicist and a pop star whose court and four-year-old daughter, dancing and rapping to explain what the Higgs collider is and how it was used to find the Higgs boson.

Let me give you the opening lyrics. Twenty seven kilometers of twisted superconducting magnets with strictly cooled particles racing around a tunnel, 17 miles through Switzerland and France, Many nations round here we assemble, silicon.

We, it's a 27 kilometer tunnel that cost several billion dollars to build and is used. The rap video goes on to explain: This process using sound through the wire they hide/All in the head of the detectors they've made to collide.

I want to change you in a sequence so do not fear the YouTube sensation/I'll find out. I'd suggest using it in high school science classes, but I have to say I did get lost after the first two sentences, more because I was so fascinated watching the dancing scientists.

Dancing chemicals

Just last Friday I visited my high school alma mater, Xavier, to give a talk but stayed around for the school. I ended up joining the advisor of the school's street dance group, which has been winning prizes for several years. Lo and behold, the advisor was Ms. Chua, who teaches science! The high school principal, Jose Cacacho, told me he doesn't dance but is great at coaching. Anyway, when I caught up with him he was building a chair in history and I wondered if the periodic elements are explained using dance.

There are, after all, several Periodic Table of Elements songs on YouTube, including a version by the Chipmunks. Check out one first sung by Harvard mathematician Tom Lehrer in the 1960s with several versions, and remixes/dance, now going viral.

Seriously, though, the elements do have their choreography, as do atoms and subatomic particles and this Higgs boson. Yet, still, there is such a strong divide in many educational institutions between the arts and the sciences, between the social sciences and natural sciences, with the result that many students, from the arts, may not find the sciences interesting, and vice versa.

The Higgs boson discovery reminds us, too, that there's so much we still need to learn about the universe, about our planet, about human beings, and resources given and small. When I was taking college biology, we only talked about the animal kingdom and plant kingdom. Now, with Carl Woese and Lynn Lehrer range in his "The Elements" song, "There are many others, but they're waiting to be discovered."

For physics, I remember my high school teacher mentioning only atoms. Now there are all kinds of subatomic particles on quarks, on leptons, the photon of electromagnetism, eight gluons, 12 gauge bosons, three sets of 4 fermions, and, finally, Higgs boson. You could make a song out of this, sung to the 12 days of Christmas.

With so much to discover, I used to gently chide students who would animate research proposals with objectives written as "To know..." "To do basic, and so-do "know," but only until—hopefully—they've done their research. This is what differentiates science from religion: Scientists make no claims to absolute knowledge.

Turquoise Lovebirds

Yet what's so fascinating is that science still invoke the language of religion, and of magic. Religion Dispatches, a blogspot, has been posting a series on "The Magic of the Higgs" and "The Magic of the Higgs Boson Particle" appeared in Religion Dispatches, with several examples of the use of magical metaphors. A striking quote from Daniel Pfitzmann, one of the scientists who worked on the project, could have been a scene from a Harry Potter movie: "The magic of it could not be better, even under circumstances that couldn't have been worse. It's a kind of quantum magic where it sort of disappears into pure energy... We haven't seen anything many yet, but there would still be strange pink elephants in there, waiting to pop out."

And why not, indeed? Why can't we get students to sing our way into math songs and interpretive dances floating out of windows, or going out of a overdrive, just to emphasize how science is full of magic too?

There's a stereotype of physicists as a serious and dour lot, but I think of our University of the Philippines Diliman chancellor, Dr. Caesar Saloma, who is a physicist and hears day-set that he understands magic, in between episodes on student rallies and student rebellion, of course.

There are (or is) not alone among physicists. Fellow undergraduate Mary Bayda forwarded an article from BBC Science, etc. "The poetry of subatomic particles," explaining how some of the terms in physics came about. American physicist Murray Gell-Mann got the term "quarks" after reading James Joyce's "Finnegans Wake," which had a sentence reading "three quarks for master Mark." Oh, and physicists talk of an "flavors" of quarks: up, down, strange, charm, bottom and top.

And Higgs hunter? Higgs is here Higgs, who first proposed the existence of this subatomic particle in 1964. Actually, there were three of them and Gilbert were all to be attributed, so would have been called Higgs-Kibble-Guralnik, which would have been potential materials for Filipino jokes. Boson is named after Indian physicist Satyendra Nath Bose.

Then there's neutrino, which means "little neutral one." And then there are WIMPs, or weakly interactive massive particles.

And what about all the talk about the Higgs boson being "the God particle"? It seems an American physicist Leon Lederman first called it "the goddam particle" because it was so elusive and was almost to see that as the title of his book about their search. He must marketing agents advised changing it to the "God particle," which clicked well with those who are religiously inclined.

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Janice's story

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

It's a scenario that could only have been made in accompaniment with the most bizarre imagination. A woman wanders into a hotel room, pregnant or pregnancy that is about to reach full term. She takes on her bed, stretches forth in hand. Then, without benefit of anesthesia, she thrust her belly open and yanks out her child, still attached to her by its umbilical cord. She removes the cord, wraps the baby in a blanket and throws it under the mattress. The new mother then attempts to sew her "surgical" wound closed, using an ordinary needle and thread and still without benefit of anesthesia, but the pain proves too much and she cries out for help. Hotel staff find her and the bloody bedclothes and rush her to a nearby hospital. Later, residents report finding the body of an infant buried in a pumping station. Janice identified as the woman's baby. Police later say the baby was allegedly buried by two scavengers who were hired by the mother's cousin.

It's a scenario that would be too horrific and discomforting to be shown on TV, even in the late hours. A movie made from the incident would be rated for adults only and even then it would need a lot of cutting to get a rating. Many adult viewers would probably look away.

And yet—the story is all too true. Re: this is indeed what Janice Calipe, reportedly a midwifery graduate, which accounts for her rudimentary knowledge of how to perform a C-section, told police after she'd had Janice's husband abandoned her last year, which may in a way explain her decision to terminate her pregnancy in such a—that word again—bizarre manner.

Now police are preparing to file a case of either infanticide or abandonment against Janice, not just Janice but also her aunt and uncle who were with her in the house at the time she cut herself open. A police investigator told the media it was the aunt, Jennifer Loreto, who tried to recruit scavengers offering to bury the infant's body, and that the hotel officials and then would look into burying the baby in a public cemetery. Loreto instead talked two scavengers into getting rid of the remains.

* * *

JANICE, the mother, has been confined in hospital and reportedly underwent psychiatric evaluation over the weekend, although the results have yet to be released.

I can understand why authorities would want a judgment on Janice's sanity since her "feat" would have been attempted only by someone out of killer, someone so unhinged she would risk terrible pain, not to mention willing manners like infection and blood loss, to end her pregnancy.

Other women, after all, including an estimated half a million Filipino women a year, seek an abortion in the early weeks and months of pregnancy. But even then they risk their lives in a world, if not to Filipino law, then to religion, which is unanimous when the procedure is done in less than sterile conditions and by untrained and uneducated abortionists. Other women go to village midwives for help, and testimonies attest to the horrendous pain suffered by women who go for "deep cleaning" or D&C, an abortionist attempts to terminate the pregnancy.

* * *

SOLSTICE the plight of Janice and her baby speak to so many realities that Filipino women confront every day, that they have to deal with the issue of a crisis. The act of a deranged person, a desperate woman's revenge on a hidden spouse, or a heavy film scenario, is to ignore the larger and deeper horrors that visit Filipino women each day.

More than half of all pregnancies in the Philippines are unwanted. Of course, some of the women eventually come around to accepting their pregnancy, even if they had not planned it or had wanted to wait awhile. But many others choose to terminate the pregnancy and pull down their spirit as possible to the extent that even airplanes are not allowed to land or take off.

In my second year of medical school, one student in our university section committed suicide. It was also a time when I felt I was at the end of the rope of persistence. I was stressed because of my studies and the financial situation of my parents. Instead of them finished high school. We survived on the earnings of their small tailoring shop and laundry parlor. There was a semester when my mother could not come up with me in time. One night, I could not take it anymore. I ran out of the house, crying, and punching a duck. Sobbo in my mother's house. When my mother came out of the house, I told her I wanted to quit medical school. After hearing her calm voice and plea that I continue with my studies, I settled down.

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SOLSTICE the plight of Janice and her baby speak to so many realities that Filipino women confront every day, that they have to deal with the issue of a crisis. The act of a deranged person, a desperate woman's revenge on a hidden spouse, or a heavy film scenario, is to ignore the larger and deeper horrors that visit Filipino women each day.

More than half of all pregnancies in the Philippines are unwanted. Of course, some of the women eventually come around to accepting their pregnancy, even if they had not planned it or had wanted to wait awhile. But many others choose to terminate the pregnancy and pull down their spirit as possible to the extent that even airplanes are not allowed to land or take off.

In my second year of medical school, one student in our university section committed suicide. It was also a time when I felt I was at the end of the rope of persistence. I was stressed because of my studies and the financial situation of my parents. Instead of them finished high school. We survived on the earnings of their small tailoring shop and laundry parlor. There was a semester when my mother could not come up with me in time. One night, I could not take it anymore. I ran out of the house, crying, and punching a duck. Sobbo in my mother's house. When my mother came out of the house, I told her I wanted to quit medical school. After hearing her calm voice and plea that I continue with my studies, I settled down.

I remember that during my first few days in college, we were screened in the library and told the time and then it was open, how to borrow a book, when to return it, and the fine for lateness.

If we can teach students about the library and why and teach them also how the brain works so they can learn better and more refined habits, just like parents with an authentic child rushing the child to an emergency room and hospital on discharge?

We are lucky that the 21st century has brought us many new cognitive research results that can be used to help our children. To get the benefit from these results, it is our duty to use them.

Welcome to the age of evidence-based education.

Leonardo Lesmoldes, MD, graduated from the University of the Philippines College of Medicine in 1968. He is associate clinical professor in psychiatry and recipient of the Distinguished Career Teaching Award (2009) at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston in the United States. He won normal outstanding MP alumnus in 2010.

How and why history is written

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

TUDE books often go unread. Felony's "Pius and Peace" or Pearson's "Friends of Lucy Thief" remain on my bucket list. The Oxford English Dictionary and the 33-volume Philippine Islands by Blair and Robertson will never be read cover to cover but have at least been dipped into for study and reference. What is it with hefty books that make us groan? Historian Jose S. Arcilla's Methods of the Historical Study" (Ateneo, 2011) by Jose and Nathan Quimpo arrived in my office a few weeks ago, and all 440 pages of it turned out to be an engaging read.

Jesus and Nathan Quimpo neatly arranged the essays into thematic and chronological chapters that are easy to follow and understand. All are written from different points of view that remind us of the proverbial blind men describing an elephant from the various parts each one had at hand: tail, trunk, ear, body, leg, tail and penis. One can describe this beast in different strands of info, impressions and monomania. By themselves but woven together turn into a vibrant tapestry brought together by one family's experience of a period in Philippine history referred to as the martial law years, the Marcos years, the Marcos dictatorship, or the Marcos regime, depending on which side of the fence you're on.

Historian Vicente Rafael introduces the book with these lines: "There are no instruments to communism in the Philippines. Instead, there are numerous stories of nationalist figures. Whereas it is common, perhaps even essential, to communicate to succeeding generations the nationalist ideal and unwilling to acknowledge those whose nationalism was colored by communism." Text book history is often told in black and white, with heroes in tandem like Rizal and Bonifacio or Mabini and Aguinaldo. Villains can be identified, like the Spanish friars, the Katipunan, the Spanish, the Americans, the Japanese, the Hukbalahap and the Sakdal. Like fairytales, Philippine history begins with "once upon a time." It has also a land and people seemingly benign in us. Unlike fairytales, however, our history continues to evolve; it has no happy ending, leaving us with the dire hope of living "happily ever after."

In a past life, I edited the notes of Pedro Abad Santos in a list of historical markers for Intramuros because I felt that it was the only way I could get all the attention. Jose Abad Santos' name is on streets and school buildings, his face looks at us from the P1,000 Philippine bank note. The activist looking Pedro Abad Santos, who succeeds Jose Yulo, translates Leon Ty, remained hidden in a closet like a dark family secret.

A commissioned biography of Jose Abad Santos by Dick Joaquin remains unpublished, not for lack of funds or interest, but because somewhere in the end Joaquin suggests that the Japanese executed Jose because they had a mandate. Not for Pedro. This presented no problem as on the historical marker to be unveiled in metal and installed in the remains of the house where Pedro Abad Santos was born in San Fernando, Pampanga, he was a lawyer to the National Historical Institute but dropped Pedro Abad Santos from the long list of nominees. I was told by some in committee: I was initially given technical excuses like the actual spots of markers had been exceeded, or the house where Pedro was born was recently demolished, etc. When confronted, the said official gave the real reason for the omission: "Hello! Hindi tayo pwede! Communist 'yan!" I glared and shot back: "So what? Does that make him any less historical than his brother?"

In consequence, and in reply to Vicente Rafael, one reason we have no communism in the name of unity is that the present Institute of History is dedicated by the state through its continuing appointed by the Department of Education, through appointments received on public land using public funds, through commemorations initiated by a national government agency responsible for history. Communists are considered enemies of the state and will never be commemorated by a system of government that used to worship Stalin. But their armed struggle succeeded, history would have been written differently and we would have a different set of laws on nationality, coins, bank notes and textbooks, and different names on streets, parks, school houses and public buildings. Jose Abad Santos would have been the history-thus, but the Quimpo book that details the struggle in retirement to the anti-Marcos struggle through the Communist Party wants us that had they succeeded. His Philippines would have had to endure a government worse than under Marcos.

Here's a recent example why there are no communists in the Pantheon of Heroes. Historian and with discussion. Nationalist historian Teodoro A. Agoncillo once declared, "no documents, no history." Documents followed "unknown," whether in the Marcos years or during the Cory Aquino years, were destroyed, hidden and forgotten or, worse, destroyed. Copies of Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere" were used in the toilet, buried in the garden, or destroyed by censor during a raid. During the Marcos years, the Quimpos hid "subversive" documents under their bench, up in their ceilings, and in their trash. With fears of a raid, the papers were burned.

Nathan Quimpo shrugs when he recalls those years, and to the nagging finger of historians he exclaims: "Saying 'What if?' is easy."

Why are certain figures and events left out of history? The explanation for these silences and omissions underscore that it is not enough to know history; one must also discover how and why history is written.

Comments are welcome at my Facebook Ate Page

LETTERS

Geertman murder another brazen assault on activists

ONCE MORE the National Council of Churches in the Philippines is alarmed and protests against the continuing atmosphere of impunity in this country.

We lament the death of Wilhelmus Geertman, executive director of the Nay Bayan Lo... and Inc. (ABI), a director corporate NGO based in Batangas. We mark him as his family, friends and associates. We reach out to the people and communities touched by his life and example and pointed by this tragic loss.

While we mourn, we denounce his brutal assassination with utmost condemnation. Reports say he was gunned down in broad daylight near his office by two unidentified killing men. Geertman, his driver and security officer of Bantayog ng Mga Bayani in Hacienda Luisita, and his companion for dinner arrives, his killing seemed to be designed as an act of robbery as was the police contribution to the assassination of the most favorited director Rubinoff B. Tarlac. In point beyond doubt, as the brazen assault on people who take it as their mission to help marginalized people attain their full humanity. The killing of Geertman adds to the sad chapter of continuing extrajudicial killings in this country the will not dwell on the statistics, but, we decry the failure of the government to stem and promote the perpetuation of this wanton taking of human lives.

We human rights council of the Philippines has been reminded by the United Nations Human Rights Council secretary and its members, countless agree with human rights watchdogs that the Philippine government needs to do much much more to complying with the human rights protocols it has signed.

We insist on the inviolability of human life, and no one has the rights to conspire with another's life, much less to take that life away. We stand on the Christian vision of a community or church where the humanity of each person deserves all the respect regardless of their economic or political status.

Thus, we join the demand for justice for Geertman and others killed by unlawful violence. This call becomes more urgent as the impunity heightens, and earlier killings remain unresolved.

Christian social responsibility is means for the attainment of a community or society which promotes healthy and life-sustaining human relationships. We are called to live in a community where our differences are understood as encompassing God's interlocking for enrichment of the entire wonderful the constitution of the divine promise of abundant life for all. (John 10:10)

—THE MOST REV. EFRAIM C. TENDERO, D.D.
chair, RTE RTS OF RTSTS PR., general secretary, National Council of Churches in the Philippines
www.ncephilippines.org

Why Dolphy deserves National Artist Award

TED TEPTOS is the host of Master Showtell, "Does Dolphy really deserve award?" (Inquirer, 7/9/12).

In his town, Showtell unwittingly exposed his objection to honor comedy king Dolphy with the National Artist award. Showtell, according to him, Dolphy cannot be a "role model, someone to be revered and emulated" as he had sired a number of children by different women.

After presenting his argument, Showtell called his friend with the question, "What do you think, Dolphy?"

So, with your indulgence, Mr. Showtell, let me tell you what I think.

1. I think you are living in a fantasy world where everything appears to be perfect—people, places and events.

2. I think you're looking at the National Artist award in the wrong perspective. I sincerely believe that Dolphy rightly deserves the recognition for his outstanding contribution to the local film industry that gilded the hardworking Filipino with his comic excellence spanning decades of time.

3. I think that of morality is a very important factor in selecting a National Artist awardee, then not a single Filipino is qualified to become one. Who's to determine among us who's? Dolphy is not being considered for sainthood, only for national artist status. Even the so-called saints canonized by the pope weren't completely moral.

4. I think it's none of the expression of Dolphy as a man of a thousand women that is the model for the Filipino to emulate, but his love and dedication to his craft.

—CRISTY PANTOJA,
272 Kamias Extn St.,
Cubao, Quezon City

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Across the NATION

Comelec: ARMM voters' list fraud to fail

A RESIDENT of Lanao del Sur fills out a form to register as a voter at the start of the 10-day registration of voters in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao aimed at cleansing the region's voters' list. And authorities say it's now out of politics to use anti-terrorism for election fraud. KEITH L. CHIMACHIMA

COTABATO CITY—Election officials overseeing the registration of voters in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) expressed confidence that efforts by politicians to manipulate the process would fail.

"They use her to so many people as they want to register and they would be disqualified," said Sixto Brillantes, a former election lawyer and now chair of the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

"You're wasting your money," said Brillantes, addressing himself to political clans in ARMM known to use behind-a-machinery that has made the region notorious for election fraud.

The 10-day registration started last Monday and is aimed at cleansing the list of voters in the region that has gained notoriety for highly questionable election results like rare voter-to-voter-candidates-for-senator in 2007.

Biometrics

Brillantes, interviewed by a radio station in Tawi-Tawi, said Comelec has mechanisms to detect fraud in the registration. "We will find you," he said.

One of these mechanisms, he said, is the use of biometrics which determines the identity of a person by, among others, his or her fingerprints or DNA.

The election watchdog Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting reported cases of fraud during the registration, like minors being made to register as voters. Other cases of fraud include the use of so-called flying voters, or people who register and vote in areas where they are not residents.

No voters

Brillantes said Comelec could counter politicians' efforts to manipulate voter registration by simply removing suspect names on the list. "Nobody will vote for them come election time," Brillantes said.

The Comelec chief also said there won't be any extension of the 10-day registration period to ARMM, composed of the provinces of Maguindanao, Sulu, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Lanao del Sur.

"For how can 10 days and within that period, all qualified voters and register so they cannot vote in next year's elections," Brillantes said.

He also rejected appeals for the Comelec to allow ARMM residents who are working or studying outside the region to register in their current places of residence. *Edwin Fernandez, Jhanvic Santos and Abdul Omal, Inquirer Mindanao*

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

In Bolinao, fishermen tame the sea

By Gabriel Cardinoza
Bolinao, Pangasinan

EVERY JUNE 1, Romeo Balinda, a fisherman, pulls his single-engine, 16-horsepower wooden boat to a dry dock and hangs his fishing lines near his house in the coastal village of Balingasay in Bolinao, Pangasinan.

He has been doing this for a decade simply because he dreads going to the sea in June. "June is not a good month for me," Balinda, 43, says in Pilipino. "I have had many close engagements [in the sea] during that month."

He was 18 years old when he was first stranded for two days in an area in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), some 30 nautical miles off San Fernando City in La Union, while fishing alone.

"It was June. I thought I would die. My engine rumbled out and there was a thunderstorm. I could see the lightning and strong waves were filling my boat with water. I just kept on removing the water from my boat and prayed to it," Balinda recalls.

Luckily for him, strong currents took his boat near the shore, enabling him to paddle to safety.

In June 2002, Balinda would go through that experience again, prompting him to promise to himself that he won't ever go to the sea again in June.

"Actually, almost every Bolinao fishermen has a story to tell," says Pangasinan Rep. Jesus Celeste, who was a fisherman, and later a fish dealer and boat owner, before joining politics in the late 1980s.

And in any month, he says, accidents happen in the open sea. He says he experienced clinging to his capsized boat for six hours after it was battered by strong winds in the late 1980s.

"That is why I was not surprised when a foreign vessel rammed a Bolinao fishing boat on June 30. To us here, that was a normal incident because there have been several similar incidents in the past, especially at night," Celeste says.

One fisherman was killed in the accident and four others are missing. Three survived to tell their stories.

Fred Custodio, Bolinao administrator, says the most dangerous period for deep-sea fishing is from November to February. "This is because of monsoon winds. There's an typhoon signal but all of a sudden strong winds blow, whipping up huge waves," he says.

In December 2006, some 50 fishermen from neighboring Infanta town encountered this. Many of them were rescued days later at the disputed Hasa-Hasa Shoal.

Custodio says fishermen who often meet accidents at sea are those who are into deep-sea fishing, or those who fish beyond the 15-kilometer municipal waters.

At least 60 percent of Bolinao's population of 85,568 (2007) depend on fishing. But only about 1,500 people are engaged in deep-sea fishing.

Deep-sea fishermen sail from six to 12 hours to payao (artificial reefs) located 40 to 150 nautical miles (one) from the shoreline.

The payao, which are made up of small bamboo rafts where palm leaves are hung, attract small fish that feed on the plankton that settle on the floats. Bigger fish, like tuna, are in turn attracted by the small fish.

Celeste says that in the payaos, fishermen would throw at least a hundred fishing hooks and lines into the water and pull them once fish bite them.

The prized catch for these fishermen in the deeper parts of the West Philippine Sea, Custodio says, is the yellow-fin tuna, which is abundant in the area.

Aside from tuna, fishermen also catch "galunggong" (round scad), blue marlin, and sometimes, "tanigangos" (Spanish mackerel) and "dorado" (dolphin fish).

Balinda says on a good day, he makes P5,000. But he says there were also days when his catch was only worth P1,000, barely enough for his expenses for gasoline, food and "minor

FISHING boats of various sizes are docked in a sandy area at the mouth of Balingasay River in Bolinao, Pangasinan

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD AIRPORT ROAD, PASAY CITY
Manila Bulletin

IN RE: APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO OPERATE AS AN INTERNATIONAL SCHEDULED AIR TRANSPORT FORWARDER

CAB CASE NO. 0000

-to-

CTG CHRISTOPHER SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT INC.
Applicant

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Pursuant to the provision of Republic Act No. 776, as amended, Notice is hereby given that [illegible] application for authority to operate as an international scheduled airfreight forwarder. The application shall be granted only upon the Board's [illegible] August 2012.

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I certify that a copy of the application and the Notice as posted on the CAB Bulletin Board beginning this day.

[illegible]
Acting Chief, Planning/Evaluation Division

ATTY. LEAH V. PAPAYA
Corporate Secretary
CTG Corporate Merging and Transport Inc.
Unit 2207, City Land 1 Mini Building
[illegible]
Makati City

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Ang PhilHealth ay humihingi ng paumanhin sa anumang gambalang naidulot ng pagkabagu-ong aming IT systems upang mas mapagbuti ang aming serbisyo.

Asahan ninyo na ang PhilHealth ay patuloy na kikilos upang ito ay maging mapagkakatiwalan ang mismong kaming mga miyembro.

Para sa karagdagang impormasyon, tumawag sa 4417442

Devotion to Lady of Piat

By Vaughn Kleiser
Piat, Cagayan

YNA Tara Mgaayan." This Ibanag term for "Mother of All" welcomed some 50,000 pilgrims who flocked to Piat, a town by the Cagayan River, on July 2 to ensure that the devotion to the Our Lady of Piat continues.

"Many miracles happened here," said Msgr. Jose Odiello Bacungcoa, referring to the basilica minore, which hosts the image of the Nuestra Señora de Piat, guiconsin of Cagayan Valley.

The image, shadow for its dark complexion, celebrated its 400th year in Cagayan in 2004.

Bacungcoa, who was assigned as rector of Piat in 2010, marveled at the deep faith and devotion of Cagayanos to the Lady of Piat. "They are very devoted ... Many come more than twice a year," he said, noting that many offer prayers for good health and success in business and other endeavors.

Pilgrims and tourists start arriving in Piat, which is about 40 kilometers from the capital Tuguegarao City, in early or late weeks before the Sandaal Festival, which is celebrated on the first day of the Novena Mass on June 23 and culminates on the Our Lady of Piat's feast day on July 2.

Diocesan Historian Andrada and Gabriel Tara, who live in Barangay Papa in nearby Tuao town, said they were acting as object guards during the feast and prepared to thank the Our Lady of Piat for their good health.

Andrada and Tara said they were brought up by their parents believing that the image saved Tuao from floods in the early days.

Lut Agustin, 56, traveled from Baguey town in southeast for 20-year devotion. She has been praying for good health and willing for a successful harvest.

"She has given us much already," said Agustin, who hired a bus so she could bring with her 46 of her townmates to Piat.

Rigoline Manuzang, 63, said their great great grandparents passed on the family's devotion to the Our Lady of Piat. "So long as we're alive, we will continue coming here yearly. Just like our elders," he said.

Fray Julian Malcamboa O.P., in his book "Historia de Cagayan," said the statue of the Our Lady of Piat was created by a sculptor in Macao in 1668. Historical accounts showed that the image saved Cagayanos from a severe drought that killed farm animals and devastated farmlands in 1624.

Pilgrims have also started visiting a spring in the town, called "Obbog" (Ibanag term for spring) or "Baked ng Buhay" (Spring of Life), whose water, they believe, has healing powers.

"I am amazed on this issue. I am not wondering, it [subjecting to the supposed miraculous spring water] but I am not saying [that the pilgrims] believed that they would be cured] is right or wrong," Mayor Leonel Guerrero said.

Bacungcoa said the Catholic Church was taking a "wait and see" position on the issue, saying miracles attributed to the spring should be documented and studied before it is endorsed as a holy place.

THE MIRACULOUS image of Our Lady of Piat.

HOMETOWN Snapshot

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
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CTG Corporate Merging and Transport Inc.
Unit 2207, City Land 1 Mini Building
[illegible]
Makati City

John Hay firm says BCDA refused payment offer

BAGUIO CITY first lucap Asia solid waste technology is a machine that converts organic food into powdered fertilizer (cones stacked in sacks here) using a patented Japanese microorganism. The city, however, has been unable to sell the fertilizers.

Technology seen as garbage woe solution

BAGUIO CITY—The summer capital, subject of a temporary environmental proclamation order (Tepo) for a 2011 trash slide, is exploring biotechnological solutions to its garbage woes.

That's because an express believe that developing an ecological landfill soon has become unlikely.

"Landfill development has taken up our time and resources for years and we still get into resistance from communities and value cost? Who wants a landfill in their backyard? So our real solution is in technology" said Nestor Cosain, the city's general services officer and head of a solid waste management task force.

Cosain clarified that the city government has not abandoned plans to build a landfill.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has acknowledged difficulties in securing community support for ecological landfills, and is now encouraging the use of new technologies, said Clarence Bagsiga, DENR Cordillera director.

Mimi Villanueva, DENR Cordillera spokesperson, said only 61 out of 1,491 towns and 143 cities are served by sanitary landfills. But 66 new sanitary landfills have received environmental compliance certificates and are now being built, he said.

"We encourage new technology" he said. New technology however, should first pass through the Department of Science and Technology, he added.

Cosain said Baguio is studying the offer of two firms to set up waste-to-energy facilities. One firm, G-Next Philippines Inc., offered a machine that would turn wastes into coal.

This is not Baguio's first venture into garbage technology. The city government operates two machines using Shimaor microbes, which consume and convert organic wastes into powdered fertilizers.

The city, however, has not been able to profit from the fertilizer and is analyzing the cost of operating the machines, Cosain said.

Waste-to-energy facilities in areas like Nueva Ecija have been opposed by residents, in La Trinidad, Benguet province, the decision by Mayor Gregorio Bueloy Jr. to operate a thermal plant called "Black Hole" led to complaints and a grail case against some officials in January. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—The developer of Camp John Hay said it tried in vain to settle its debt feud with the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) in August last year, only to be rejected by the agency administering this former American rest and recreation center.

Alfredo Yñiguez III, Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco) executive vice president and chief executive officer, on Tuesday said the BCDA refused to hear out their offer for a joint venture deal that would have given the government P6.5 billion from an extended contract.

It was the same offer CJHDevco submitted at the agency during talks from Aug. 17 to Oct. 7 last year, he said.

The BCDA, he said, sent CJHDevco a demand letter requiring payment of arrears which had ballooned to P12 billion.

The firm said it tried to prevent an offer that would translate into a total of P18 billion in rent payments but its officials were not even allowed to make a presentation.

Debt feud

In the end of 2011, CJHDevco decided to rescind its instrumental lease agreement and pursue arbitration over the government's supposed failure to fulfill its contractual obligations. The debt feud had since been elevated to the courts.

CJHDevco began the year by awaiting and obtaining a restraining order against the BCDA, and filed lawsuits in June and July for libel, perjury, graft and criminal neglect over the BCDA actions.

The BCDA filed Omnibus charges against CJHDevco for unfair use part of its debts using a luxury home that had allegedly been bought by a previous buyer. On May 15, the agency's board of directors terminated the lease contract.

Yñiguez said that was the same day the company's offer was sent to the BCDA office in Metro Manila to discuss their joint-venture proposal on the invitation of BCDA Chair Nieto Pagunsan.

"But we were not even let in. We learned later that they had terminated the contract [which was served to CJHDevco here on May 18]," Yñiguez said.

Misleading

Ariel Casanova, BCDA president, said CJHDevco has received talks about the company's joint-venture offer to mislead the public.

Quoting Manuel Ulanes Jr., CJHDevco vice president for litigation, the statement cited a BCDA board member, who claimed that "Casanova [had] opposed Pagunsan (who invited the firm to the meeting) and blocked CJHDevco officials from even entering the BCDA board meeting."

Yñiguez, in the statement, said company officials offered the joint-venture proposal in good faith.

The offer, Casanova rejected P6.4 billion of payments to BCDA without reason. It's a shame for the government," Yñiguez said.

"It was also Casanova who had refused to meet CJHDevco in the arbitration hearings and would communicate to CJHDevco through a media shame campaign instead," the statement said.

"It was very frustrating," the statement quoted Yñiguez as saying.

"We went there upon invitation of the chairman of BCDA, but could not even enter the BCDA board room to present an improved proposal in good faith because of the opposition of Casanova," the statement said.

It said the firm learned about the BCDA rejecting its improved proposal through news reports quoting the BCDA. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Pangasinan villagers give go-signal to golf course

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Residents of four coastal villages here have given the provincial government the go-signal to start construction of an 18-hole golf course in their villages.

The Lingayen golf course project was suspended in January by the Environmental Management Bureau after lack of environmental compliance certificate (ECC).

The golf course spans 58 hectares and will cover the coastal villages of Salomague, Estanza, Malimpuyo and Cupandaan here.

Five hundred residents of these villages voted in favor of proceeding with the golf course at a public consultation on increasing 15 rosemary-lehand here, which was the last of a series of meetings started in March to fulfill the prerequisites for obtaining an ECC.

Salomague village chief Hector Antiana said there were people who opposed the project, which was supported by Gov. Amado Espino, but he described them as "a handful." He said their concerns had been adequately explained at the forums.

"They were opposing the project because they were fed wrong information about it. But now, it's very clear to them, especially the families that our barangays will get from it," Poblacio said.

Residents have feared that their water supply would be depleted once the golf course operates. A golf course needs a steady supply of water for its fairways, tees and greens.

But an environmental impact assessment (EIA) study conducted by the Center for Cadastral and Technical Services Inc. (CCSI) said the golf course would require only about 1,000 cubic meters of water a day.

Gregorio Dilla, Aziat president, said three lagoons, which can store 35,500 cubic meters of water, would be built to meet the water demand of the golf course.

Cesar Baldoz Jr., chief of EMB's EIA management division, said the dialogue would serve as relevant inputs for agency studies area on the golf course's ECC application.

He welcomed the "unanimity of support" for the project from residents and officials of the four villages. "This is a manifestation of the people's acceptance of the project," he said.

The golf course, which is estimated to cost P800.2 million, is part of an economic zone proclaimed by President Fidel Ramos in 1997. Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Sayyaf tagged in extortion letters

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Extortion letters attributed to the Isnilon group Abu Sayyaf are circulating again in Basilan, indicating that the armed group with links to the international terror network al-Qaida is active again, authorities said yesterday.

Col. Ramon Kapeg, Basilan's Special Operations Task Force commander, said plantation cooperatives, prominent businessmen, politicians, establishments, contractors and government offices have received the extortion letters.

The letters were signed by personalities known to the leaders of the Abu Sayyaf.

Kapeg said if establishments and businessmen refuse to give in to the demands of the Abu Sayyaf, "their properties are initially subjected to harassment and attacks as some kind of warning."

He said the recent burning of provincial government-owned trucks being used for a road construction project in Tuburan village in Basilan was "the gruesome refusal to give in to the P2-million extortion demand," Kapeg said.

Basilan provincial engineer Tahir Latip said that after the attack, all government-owned pieces of property were pulled out from the town, except in Maluso, Lantawan and the cities of Lamitan and Isabela.

The Tumahubong Agusan Reform Revolutionary Insurgency Development Cooperative Inc., a group of farmers, has also received an extortion letter, demanding P150,000 in monthly "protection" money.

The letter was addressed to the cooperative chair, Arsino Pentecos, and to manager Taha Kamla.

Senior Supt. Allan Nazarro, police chief of Basilan's Isabela City, said at least 10 business establishments had received extortion letters as well.

"We have been coordinating with them," said Nazarro. He said policemen were sent to go on patrol to secure the establishments that received extortion letters. Adiel S. Alcaraz, Inquirer Mindanao

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P-Noy memo to DENR: No new mining permits in Palawan

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT Aquino has severed notice to Environment Secretary Ramon Paje that no new mining applications should be approved in Palawan province, home to "world wonder" Puerto Princesa Underground River.

In an accompanying memorandum to his new order on mining, the President ordered Paje to "desist from processing mining applications" in Palawan.

This was among nine specific actions that Malacañang came up with a specific action for Palawan only, which was among the 78 tourism sites, dubbed by EO 79 as "no-go" zones.

"Based on that order, there will be no more new projects that can be approved. We are ordered to stop processing new applications and contracts in Palawan," Paje said by phone, confirming the contents of the memorandum.

Current mined projects, however, will be allowed to continue, he said. Palawan hosts several big mining projects, including Rio Tuba, Coral Bay, Berong and Oriental Peninsula businesses.

Paje said DENR Aquino's specific order on Palawan was prompted by the furor gained by the Puerto Princesa Underground River as one of the world's new seven wonders and the Department of Tourism's plans to boost the promotion of tourism in the province.

Rise for tourism

"The government feels that the primary land use of Palawan should be tourism. We should somehow be biased for tourism because of the accolade it's giving to the country as one of the seven wonders of the world," the environment secretary said.

Besides, he added, Delaware should "definitely be protected and conserved for the world to see and enjoy."

Environmentally sound

Palawan's underground river, the Amazon rainforest, Mexico's Sian Ka'an Biosphere, Argentina's Iguazu Falls, South Korea's Jeju Island, Indonesia's Komodo and South Africa's Table Mountain were named the new wonders in a poll conducted by the Swiss foundation New7Wonders.

Mining has been a touchy issue in Palawan. Environmental groups have tangled with the DENR and mining companies over the operation of large-scale mining in the province. Paje has refused calls to cancel active mining projects.

In the memorandum, the President directed Paje to enhance the strict implementation and periodic review of the Environmental Strategic Plan for Palawan (ESP) in coordination with the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development.

Mr Aquino was referring to Republic Act No. 7611, which serves as a guide for mining and other industries in the province.

"One of the provisions that we'd like to implement is for companies to follow environmental standards. They should spend for environmental mitigation. We will compel them to make sure that they respect environmental laws. We must not jeopardize the environment," Paje said.

The identification of the 78 tourism sites, limits, marine conservancy and island ecosystems as "taking-five" areas was among the recommendations of a scientific panel convened by EO 79, said Antonio Ly Hila, dean of the Ateneo School of Government.

"These are really new no-go areas. That's an important gain," he said by phone. "They're not in any other law."

EO poses problems to LGUs with ordinances against mining

From page A1

that President Aquino issued.

Ranch Catabay-an has an ordinance that bans open-pit and other mining practices deemed destructive to the province.

"Our ordinances stays unless its nullified or challenged in court," Pangoy told the Inquirer.

He said he was told by Environment Secretary Ramon Paje that Malacañang would respect local ordinances on mining.

"We in the local government are in the best position to know what is good for our people and the environment. I will continue to implement the law (except pit ordinances) unless it is declared illegal by the court," Pangoy said.

Fr. Edwin Gariguez said the EO's provision on the extension of settlements with landowners have would in effect suppress local officials opposed to large-scale mining.

Bigger say

"There's a problem there. In effect, the government will have to twist the arms of the local government units for them to follow national laws. This is worrisome because this takes away their voice opposing mining," said Gariguez, executive secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' National Secretariat for Social Action.

Tony La Viña, dean of the Ateneo School of Government, said local government officials should have a "bigger say" on mining.

He said he believes that the national government is superior over local governments in mining. Mining has so much impact on the ground," he said by phone. "That provision can and be utilized. There's a presumption that the national government is superior."

He, however, said that while the EO was "imperfect" it was "very good" from the environmental and financial point of view.

Ateneo's Bolivar, technical coordinator of Akyatan Rivera, said the provision was "vague" and hoped it would be further explained in the implementing rules and regulations.

Persuasive powers

Responding to the criticisms, Leo Jimenez, director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, said the government would use its "persuasive powers" to convince unmining local officials to change their mind.

Under the provision, LGUs can point out the limitations of a mining activity within a municipality but "not necessarily decide the fate" of a project.

"If there's a pending ordinance banning open-pit mining, that will stay unless it's declared illegal by a court or withdrawn by the LGU. If the national government thinks that the ordinance is contrary to national law, it will follow a process so that the matter can be resolved," Jimenez said.

BIG PUZZLE A small-scale miner pans for gold ore in Itogon, Benguet. KEVIN ODIT/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Asked if the national government would go to court to question the ordinances, he said: "The first option is to harmonize where there are conflicts in law. But will use persuasive powers to convince them."

Sagittarius Mines

Under the new executive order, mining in the province is banned only in Lake Sebu town, and did not include Tampakan town, where Xstrata's Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI) operates.

Heather Shirley Fernandez Carreiro said he would ask the South Cotabato provincial board to declare the mountains of Tampakan protected areas so that there would be no reason for SMI to continue its operation there.

But Pangoy said it might not be within the powers of the provincial board to declare particular areas protected zones.

"My understanding is, the power to declare a certain area as part of the protected areas is vested in Congress," he said.

Jules Intrade, SMI communications officer, said the company welcomed the signing of the new mining policy by the President.

"We believe this executive order is a positive step toward promoting a responsible mining industry in the Philippines and in particular, we welcome the recognition of the need for consistency between national laws and local ordinances," he said.

Arnulfo said SMI was hoping that host communities would help the company achieve sustainable opportunities for the people in Southern Mindanao.

If approved, Arnulfo said the Tampakan project would establish a blueprint for modern, large-scale mineral development in the Philippines.

He declined to comment though on claims that SMI could not operate despite the EO as the open-pit ban is not limited. The ban is the main reason the Environmental Management Bureau continues to deny SMI's application for an environmental compliance certificate.

Big puzzle

Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo said small-scale mining was still a large-scale puzzle among local government officials in implementing the EO.

"There are many local government's that will be affected, and the most contentious issue among them will be the awarding of small-scale mining permits," he said in an outreach interview.

Robredo said it was important to clarify the procedures of awarding such permits, noting that small-scale mining was a largely unregulated industry, and many local executives remained clueless about the process.

"In small-scale [mining], heavy equipment are not allowed. But there are companies with small-scale mining permits that use heavy equipment," he said, citing the case of small-scale miners in Caramoan Norte who admitted to using explosives and heavy equipment in their operations.

Robredo said it was not true that the emphasis on the adverse environmental effects of small-scale mining was aimed at deflecting attention away from large-scale mining companies.

"In fact, I am one with many groups that believe mining poses serious threats to the environment," he said.

He expressed optimism, however, that local governments would heed the provisions of the EO.

Robredo said local government officials had been consulted before the mining EO was drafted.

The EO explicitly limited the LGUs role to "confirm" themselves only to the imposition of reasonable limitations on mining activities."

'Hallmark' of dev't policy

Paje used criticisms of the EO were expected.

"It's a very balanced EO. It doesn't make one totally happy, but it somehow addresses the concerns of everyone," he said by phone, describing the EO as the "hallmark" of the administration's sustainable development policy.

"Even as we allow extractive industries in our national development, we can't sacrifice our own environment," he said.

With reports from Aquilino Q. Pimentel and Philip Tubeo; InterAksyon Mindanao

House to pass higher tax to hike gov't share of mining revenues

From page A1

nation, promote responsible mining and provide a more equitable revenue-sharing scheme.

Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. said the EO would push to harmonize mining policies and regulations in the country and make players in the mining industry more transparent and accountable.

It also imposes a 5-percent royalty on gross utilization revenues declared as mineral resources.

The EO was based on the joint resolution of the Cabinet cluster on climate change adaptation and mitigation, and economic development dated March 16, 2012.

The resolution was aimed at improving environmental mining standards and increasing revenues to promote sustainable development and social growth, both at the national and local levels.

Belmonte said the chamber could pass a new tax bill or incorporate it in the pending bills on mining at the committee level.

An Alternative Minimum Management Bill in the House seeks a 10-percent excise tax and an additional 10-percent royalty for indigenous peoples to be affected by mining operations.

"If Malacañang wants 5 to 7 percent, then we can discuss this in the committee deliberations, but in our proposal, the royalty for the indigenous peoples communities is separate," said Bagac Rep. Teodoro Bataller Jr.

At present, the government collects a royalty of 1 percent of the gross revenues from 11 of the 41 operating mines within the so-called mineral reservation areas.

To increase its share of mining revenue, Marcilla wants all 23 mines and future projects to be covered by a royalty of 5-7 percent on top of an existing excise tax of 2 percent.

However, the International Monetary Fund has recommended that the Philippines merge its 2-percent excise tax and the 5-percent royalty into one 7-percent royalty, Finance Undersecretary Jui Pinol said.

"We need to be competitive against the rest of the world, but at the same time we need to get a fair share of mining revenues, considering the environmental impact involved," Pinol told Reuters.

New committee

Under the new mining policy, a committee co-chaired by the Finance secretary is tasked with coming up with a proposal within two months on mining sector reforms, including mining revenues.

While Environment Secretary Ramon Paje has said the government wants to impose a 7-percent royalty on top of a 5-percent excise tax on all mining projects, Paul said this would have to be discussed by the committee.

The committee will also take up the BSP's recommendation to tariff on the bill filed by Sen. Ralph Recto last year to increase the excise tax to 7 percent from 2 percent to raise P63 billion in additional revenue annually.

Recto proposed that an excise tax be collected from mining firms because they were paid the minute extraction was done, while royalties were paid only after income arose from the extraction of minerals.

Bagadiel said the demand for paying royalty to the indigenous peoples' communities was aired during consultations in the House in line with the provisions of Republic Act No. 8371 or the Indigenous People's Rights Act.

The law seeks to give just and fair compensation to communities affected by any development project, he said.

Biggest winners

In raising executive yesterday said winners of the 23 mineral exploration contracts were the biggest winners in the EO, which imposed a ban on new mining deals pending the legislation of a revenue-sharing scheme.

"Their contracts are as good as gold because no more new mining laws enforced will be signed under the administration with Congress strike away from amending the new mining law," said Patrick Castro, treasurer of the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association.

Biggest loser

Congress has at least five conflicting versions of what it wants to amend in the Mining Act on that it is "unconscionable" for lawmakers to cobble up a unified version before next year's elections, Castro said.

Castro said the biggest loser from the EO was the P5.1-billion Tampakan project of Glencore Xstrata in South Cotabato.

He said the project was ridiculously in limbo, with Glencore Xstrata at a crossroads on what it would do with Southeast Asia's largest undeveloped copper-gold project.

Paje said no new mining contract would be signed until Congress approved a new revenue-sharing scheme.

"Foreign investors are aghast at how this government could do this to the world's third largest mining firm and change the rules in the middle of the game especially in a business which requires long-term planning and capital" Castro said.

He said the government was eager to please every sector with the new EO that it ended up not pleasing anybody. With a report from Reuters

Dolphy: Thank you for the laughter :-)

From page A1

Even political rivals from Malacañang to the angst halls of the former's mansion—only set aside their differences—to pray for Mang Pidol, as he is known in those quarters.

If former Manny Pacquiao could unite the whole country every time he went up the ring to clog it out with foreign pugilists, Dolphy sure able to do the same—in this, his latest hospital stay, and like 12 hours with precautionary since last year.

Dolphy's son, actor-director Eric Quizon, designated the family spokesperson after his father's latest hospital confinement, expressed his gratitude to the public for the unwavering show of support.

Another son, actor Tirso Quizon, said the family had been going through a "roller-coaster ride of emotions."

"To be frank, we almost lost my dad a couple of times in the last few weeks," Eric related.

When the comedian's health improved on his third week in the hospital, Eric said the family's spirits were lifted enormously.

"We considered it a miracle," said Eric.

"I didn't believe in miracles, but now I do. It was as if God Himself gave me a nudge," Eric remarked. We really appreciate our countrymen's concern for my father."

Eric's brother, Sunnie Quizon, said the reasons that they need to relay to their dad what was happening outside the four walls of the hospital room—specifically how the entire country has rallied to pray for them.

"It's overwhelming," Sunnie said. "Even Mahal Mod staffers told us that they had never seen this kind of media coverage for a patient before—not even for former presidents."

DOLPHY: Thanks for the memories

Media attention

Indeed, the attention showered by the media on the actress legend could be compared to coverage usually reserved for heads of state. All the TV networks and the print media have assigned key personnel to the hospital for the past two days.

At most show biz observers would point out: The media interest was well-deserved.

After all, he had been entertaining Filipinos for over six decades...straddling various media: from bodabil (live stage shows) to radio, from television to the movies.

On the small screen, he starred in a benchmark program in almost every decade of the medium: from "Sobsy Series" in the 1960s to "Idol Ko Si Kuya" in the 1980s and "Home Along Da Hills" in the 1990s.

170 movies

Dolphy made at least 170 movies in his stellar career and, among the many legends he's portrayed in cinema, he's been made to walk through time: Pictures...particularly his breakout role as the flamboyant gay hooker in Lolita Rodriguez's tough comboy in "Facifica Falayfay" (1969) and "Totoo Ito Kingina mesha-le Falayfay" (1971), he was able to redeem himself in the Lino Brocka drama film "Ang Tanay Kong Hanap" in 1976. "Kapit Kuya sonsoy, he proved that he could also do drama well. His portrayal of a gay patient in "Ang Tatay" was truly remarkable," said Eugene Domingo.

Two years ago, Dolphy made history, winning best actor (for "Father Jeremiah") and best supporting actor (for "Rosario") at the Metro Manila Film Festival.

Movie queens and fellow funnymen star Vilma Santos visited Dolphy at the hospital. "He is a true Filipino original. He draws his humor from the people he encounters daily. He measures us Filipino as a race. When we watch his movies, we see somehow reminded of ourselves."

Filmmaker Peque Gallaga, who directed the comedian in "Once Upon a Time," praised Dolphy's charisma: "Nobody is funnier especially when he holds a mirror to our weaknesses and foibles. Filipinos love him because he can be totally ridiculous but still maintain an ineffable touch of gentleness in everything he does. We got to know him when he was laughed and tears and has helped us rise above our own troubles with his own talent and sincerity."

Renowned his partner, singer-actress Zsazsa Padilla: "I had the privilege of performing with him during his 'Dolphy@80 World Tour' in 2006. Filipinos all over the globe adore him. Our countrymen will never forget the laughter he has brought in our homes and hearts."

Clueless

Eric himself is clueless about how he has fared—was declared Comedy King, "He never really talked about how he got that title. He didn't feel comfortable talking about it."

Epy recounted that the title came down during the height of his father's popularity in the 1960s and 1970s...when every TV show or movie he made became sensational fare. In 1962, he was considered the highest paid actor in the industry earning P1.5 million, according to a magazine article.)

Three Kings

"At that time, people came up with titles for Fernando Poe Jr., Joseph Estrada and my dad," Epy recounted. "They were called the industry's Three Kings. Fpj was Action King and my dad was Comedy King."

More than Dolphy's achievements as an award-winning actor and box-office star, his colleagues and the entertainment industry hailed the generosity of the legendary comedian who is credited as one of the founders of Mowelfund, along with friends and fellow industry leaders, former President Estrada and Pnp.

Singer and movie actor Dante Rubio remembers an urban legend he heard in the 1970s, it was common in see long lines of people ing engaging in front of the Broadcast City studios where "Yellow Kidnday" was taped.

Rubio learned that the queue would lead to Mang Dolphy's dressing room, where he would give away part of his talent fee to indigent coworkers and fans.

Rubio told the Inquirer that FPJ, Erap (as Estrada is known) and Dolphy genuinely established the Mowelfund to create a welfare system for industry workers (in times of medical and financial help—including hospitalization and funeral expenses.

"While chatting, Erap, FPJ and Dolphy found out that they had been helping marginalized workers in the industry," Rubio recalled. "They were not the type to blow their own horns. Dolphy remained unpartisan [of Mowelfund] all those years."

Teaching Boots cha-cha

Like most children of show business, Boo has fond memories of growing up, watching Dolphy's onscreen.

Boo recalled that Dolphy modeled her outfit her father. In fact, actor Oscar Moreno, on the Gumpaguhin Inc. "Dolphy and my dad were maghahoraks (gag mates). They used to play poker in our home. Dolphy taught me how to dance the cha cha when I was five years old."

The dancing talent led him to the double-major. he recalled to hone six dance interviews with the hopeful before his health took a turn for the worse last year.

Half in jest, half in earnest...he said he wanted to be a "Dolphy" if you're a dancer, mahiber. We went to a lot of dance clubs."

"Short dynamic ang chicks ko, at kahawig ni Dolphy ang hair-dow chug, eh dun nakakakuha-pogi points eh. Hahahaha kung gumaganda, cupo-medidas ko, dun nadagdagan inerting dun ego."

"Dolphy is king because he has done stage, radio, television and movies all throughout his career," said comedienne Eugene Domingo. "Whether supporter or lead star, he's unforgettable."

Jojo-Jinggoy tandem shaping up for 2016

From page A1

supporting Binay in the 2010 election. His endorsement of a "Bay-Bi" ticket in the 2010 campaign by the Nonsectarian core drew fans. Mar Roxas—the vice presidential election and gave then Sen. Benigno Aquino III, the eventual presidential winner, a vice president from a rival party.

Relations between Mr. Aquino and Binay have been good so far but Asked today for what the President and Binay's may be severely tested when the senior comes knocking for shelter in the Liberal Party.

Executives are no longer resistant to the Nacionalist People's Coalition (NPC) of businessman Manuel Villar "founding" campaign that he deserted in 2010 because it could not handroll his son-in Mahalaxhang.

Not in UNA

Meanwhile, former President Estrada said yesterday that Binay may not be on the UNA presidential ticket for next year.

Estrada said in a phone interview with the Inquirer that it was too important for Filipinos now to be talking about presidential slate being formed by the Liberal Party.

Besides talking with the Nacionalistas, the Liberals are also talking with Lapiangio's NPC.

"Wala ho ki sinabi-sabi," Estrada said in Filipino, when asking to Estrada. "I don't know why. What I think is that he may have asked for many favors from President Aquino."

BINAY

ESTRADA

ROXAS

SALIENGAY

It's is true that the President is fixing things between Escudero and Roxas, then UNA is not looking to get Escudero even as guest senatorial candidate next year.

"We will not accept guest candidates," Estrada said. "That's what we have agreed on."

Estrada denied that his son is being groomed to become Binay's vice presidential running mate in 2016.

But Roxas, whom Estrada once picked in 2010 in favor of Binay, is the president of the Liberals. Would Mr. Aquino plead with his best friend Roxas to let Escudero come aboard?

Options

A source close to Escudero yesterday said that did not pose a problem at all. Escudero, the source said, is considering a number of options for 2016.

"Kung gusto niya tumakbo pero dun, then he will run for president. Then again, he might stay out of the fray and be a 'King maker,'" as he did in 2010 when he gave the vice presidency to Binay by endorsing "Bay-Bi."

"It's no secret kaibigan ni Escudero si Mar Chan noon pa 2008, which will be a "powerhouse" combination if Escudero has no problem running as their no. 2.

If he has, the source said, the NPC is not ready to cut him. He may have abandoned the party but not the party lines, Espanga, co, who considers him a "prodigal son," the source said.

No-no

Escudero and Senator Estrada denied they have a rift. Escudero said he had a talk with Binay before the Vice President left on an overseas trip. On the other hand, Estrada said UNA was focused only on next year's midterm polls and not on the presidential running mate for Binay in 2016 a prematurity, he said.

Binay, who had just re-

ESCUDERO

turned from his trip, declined to comment.

"It's too early to even speculate about VP Binay's running mate in 2016," said Jinky Salga, an Binay's press officer. "But I guess it's never too early for political intrigues."

'President or nothing'

Estrada said he wanted Escudero to be his running mate in 2010, but Escudero took so long to respond. When Escudero responded, he had already picked Binay as his No. 2, he said. Escudero responded only after he had failed to get Cayetano's acceptance for his presidential candidacy.

Estrada said he had been told that Escudero's thinking then was "presidente or nada," said. But at the last minute, Escudero changed his mind at the last minute and we need to look at this partnership moving forward."

With reports from Christine Lagsuera and Norman Bordadora

Asean OKs 'code of conduct' in West Philippine Sea; China yet to agree

From page A1

implemented.

Agreed on key elements

Cambodian Secretary of State Kao Kim Hourn said at a news conference Late Monday that the declaration was intended to cover China in addition to the Asean states. The code would spell out rules governing maritime rights and navigation in the West Philippine Sea.

He said that Asean had "agreed on the key elements among Asean only and from now on we have to start discussing this with China," details of the code of conduct were not given.

Asean will have a ministerial level meeting with China on Wednesday morning, along with other high level meetings later this week.

China willing but...

China claims virtually the entire West Philippine Sea and has created an entirely new city to administer it, sparking protests from rival claimants. The sea is crossed by some of the world's busiest sea lanes. It is also fishing grounds and is believed to have vast energy reserves.

On Monday, China said it was willing to discuss a code of conduct with Asean "when conditions are ripe" but insisted that any potential pact must not be used to resolve territorial disputes.

"The (code of conduct) is not aimed at resolving disputes, but aimed at building mutual trust and deepening cooperation," China's foreign ministry spokesperson Liu Weimin told journalists in Beijing.

While Asean does not see any (in China or adds with some Asean members), it is consistent with Beijing's desire to settle disputes with claimants bilaterally.

"It's expected that China would work with Asean. It's the only way to get the US off their hands," said Carl Thayer, a politics professor and Southeast Asia security expert at the University of New South Wales in Australia.

"But what is Asean prepared and how will China react? Most don't know whether the proposed code will have a dispute settlement mechanism," he added.

Challenges

Hun Sen in his opening speech also said that Asean faces challenges, including instability elsewhere in the world, natural disasters and high food and energy costs.

He said the economic gap among Asean's 10 members had narrowed but needs to be reduced further to ensure competitiveness and achieve real regional integration.

Kao Kim Hourn also announced the postponement of the signing of three documents on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone, which had been expected this week.

He said the delay was due to a series of reservations raised by several members of the five recognized nuclear-weapon states. Discussions they were raised, "at the last minute," many time was needed for additional consultations, he said. Reports from AP and AFP

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ortuoste

SPORTS

Petron, TNT fight for life

Llamados try to keep slate clean

By Mineng R. Castillo

PETRON Blaze and Talk 'N Text, the preseason which dispatched last season's PBA Governors' Cup in a rematch title scrap game series, have historically a common good today: To stay alive.

The defending champion Boosters will try to avoid being pushed to the edge of the cliff when they battle B-Meg, while the Tropang Texters gun for the first straight win when they meet meeting with Meralco tonight at Smart Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

With a 1-4 record in the round and 0-5 overall, the Boosters cannot afford another loss in the 7:30 p.m. game. A Petron defeat will make B-Meg six of much in second spot and deny the Boosters the 6-of-5 semifinal incentive.

That incentive—winning four of five games in the round—seems to be the Tropang Texters' best way to return to the finals. A stinging loss to the Llamados last Saturday seems to have put the nuns on Talk 'N Text, which has an even 5-5 record, in do-or-die.

With fans at Ynhie already with nine wins with still three games to play and idle Barangay Ginebra and the Llamados both having seven victories apiece, sending themselves of the 4-of-5 rule could be the best avenue for the Texters.

Petron will be coming off a rousing five-point loss to the Gin Kings just three nights ago, when the Boosters failed to protect a big lead and fell after Gerbo Rosemars by a one-hundred Hunter with three seconds of a second left.

B-Meg, meanwhile, is also seeking to remain unbeaten in the round like the Kings, it win would move the Llamados within a full game of the Gasan Painters.

As things stand, Rain or Shine, at 4-2, has earned a least a playoff for the second berth in the best-of-seven title series, while Meralco is the only squad that has left safety after losing its first two games in the round.

Marcus Blakely will again lead the Llamados, who come from behind last Saturday to rip the Texters, even as Marcus Baron tries to get the Boosters with a five-win streak coming over to replace Eddie Rasdeo.

JASON Castro drives past JC Intal of B-Meg in a recent game. Castro is expected to power up Talk 'N Text's offense against Petron. —JUAN MIGUEL ANTONIO

'NC' U-turn: Four barred Cardinals get reprieve

By Cedelf F. Tupas

THE FOUR players of Mapua who were earlier disqualified by the NCAA due to residency issues yesterday got a reprieve when the league's policy board granted their appeal to have their documents checked again by the management committee.

NCAA management committee chair Fr. Vic Calvo met night and rookies Gab Bland, Joseph Ichiba, Jessie Saitanan and Mark Ilustre may only join the Cardinals if they pass the screening again after the school submits their grades in the just-concluded semester.

Mapua has a four-semester school year, and a reliable source said the league earlier ruled that the four players were ineligible because they haven't completed residency requirements.

The school's fourth semester was not yet finished when the season started.

"The four Mapua players are subject to eligibility requirements of the NCAA," said Calvo. "If they pass, they can play."

The Cardinals held a 3-1 record, after winning two straight games since their opening day setback to Jose Rizal U.

Meanwhile, JRU guard Nace Mercene has been named the 2nd recipient of the NCAA Press Corps Player of the Week after propelling the Heavy Bombers to a 3-0 start.

The 2nd-year old Filipino-American point guard from Hanford, California, registered consecutive personal-best scoring performances in the first two weeks of the season, averaging 23 points a game spiked by an impressive 13-of-23 three-point shooting.

Mercene bested the likes of Mapua's Jessie Ilustre and reigning MVP Calvin Abueva of San Sebastian Stags for the citation, also sponsored by Accel TDEC.

Mercene seized his against the Emilio Aguinaldo College Generals, finishing with a career-high 31 points in the Bombers' 98-79 victory last Thursday.

"I'm most experienced now," said Mercene. "I know how to calm and I'm just letting the game come to me."

Azkals invited to vie in tough India tilt

By Cedelf F. Tupas

THE PHILIPPINE men's football team can cut short its training camp in the United States to join a formidable field in the Nehru Cup to India from Aug. 22 to Sept. 2.

The Azkals are set to play at least three matches in the US from Aug. 10 to 23, but Philippine Football Federation president Mariano "Nonong" Araneta told the bayanes they might accept the Indian invitation, which was routed through former PFF general secretary Jhender Gammanil, who now works for the International Football Federation.

The Azkals are hoping to get the best possible preparation for the AFF Suzuki Cup late this year as they try to at least match their historic semifinal finish two years ago.

One factor that could persuade the PFF to join the Nehru Cup is the participation of pedigreed sides like Jordan, Syria and Kenya in the tournament.

Along with host India, which the Philippines defeated in the AFC Challenge Cup in Nepal, the other country that has confirmed its participation thus far is Maldives, which also failed to make it out of the group stage of the AFC Challenge.

Strong teams like Cameroon, Nigeria, Thailand, Costa Rica, Malaysia, and Namibia were also invited to the tournament in India.

"This is still a positive sign for us because we are getting an invitation to such a strong tournament," said Araneta, who is in Bangkok for the AFF Suzuki Cup draw today.

The Suzuki Cup kicks off Nov. 21 in Thailand and Malaysia with the Azkals already seeded in the group stage, owing to their surprise semifinal finish two years ago.

Speaking at the PBA Forum presented by Smart, Pepsi and Shakey's at Glaberto Uy Avenue in Manila, PFF marketing and communications head Ebong Jones said Malaysia and Thailand will be in one pot, while Vietnam and Indonesia will be in another.

The Philippines and Singapore are in pot three, while the two qualifiers will be in the fourth pot.

POC INITIATIVE

House could improve coaches', trainers' lot

By Jane Manaore

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee is spearheading a move to increase the incentives for coaches and provide bonuses for winning trainers in competitions not covered by the incentives law.

POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. said yesterday he would seek the help of the House of Representatives to review Republic Act 9064, known as the Sports Incentives Act, specifically the provision on the financial benefits of coaches and trainers for scoring their athletes to victory.

Based on the law, the incentives for coaches and trainers shall be equivalent to 50 percent of the cash awards for gold, silver and bronze medalists in the Southeast Asian Games, Asian Games, World Championships and the Olympics.

Athletes and coaches of athletes who won medals in international competitions outside of these tournaments are not entitled to bonuses from the government.

"We really have to amend the law," said Cojuangco. "I'm asking for your permission [on coaches and trainers] to be reviewed. It's already outdated. The incentives for athletes and coaches should also be increased."

The local Olympic chief also said that the medalists and their coaches in the Asian Beach Games should also be entitled to incentives since the event is a continental competition like the Asian Games.

The Philippine dragon boat team coached by Lee Escobisio produced two silver and one bronze medals in the chief editions of the beach games held last month in Haiyang, China.

"It's really unfair if we don't recognize their accomplishments," said Cojuangco. "It's the same kind of competition (as the Asian Games) and they're being deprived of the financial benefits that they truly deserved."

RA 9064, passed into law by the 11th Congress in 2001, rewards gold medalists in the Asian Games with $100,000; silver winners P500,000 and bronze medalists P300,000.

For competitions with five or more participants per team such as dragon boat, the team "shall receive twice the cash awards for individual winners, to be divided equally among the team members present during the competition."

FEL-ARTGAS' Ricky Brown shoots from the charity line as a member of the Manufacturers Cement-sponsored national team in 1988.

Reconnecting with PBA's 'Quick Brown Fox'

By Jeanette W. Papa

HE'S one of the country's all-time best rapers who turned into a school principal.

Ricky Brown, the late Filipino-American to play in the PBA, arrived in Manila on Monday night for a brief visit, hoping to reconnect with the Filipino fans and the league which gave him an big time.

"I look forward to meeting and reminiscing the Filipino fans again," said Brown, who returned to the country for the first time in 22 years. "I had the pleasure to play with some of the greatest PBA players and the thing I remember the most is the passion and loyalty of Filipino fans. There's nothing like it."

Brown, now a principal of Bear Middle School in Artesia, California, still holds the PBA all-time best average in points (23.1 ppg) and assists (7.3 apg).

Nicknamed as "The Quick Brown Fox," he was named as one of the PBA's 25 Greatest Players in 2000 and later inducted in the PBA Hall of Fame in 2009.

Brown suffered a cardiac arrest last month in Angeles that fateful Sunday at the gamet after a series of tests and game-read from this week.

"This 53-years-old, but I feel 25," Brown said during the PBA Forum yesterday at Shakey's UN Avenue. "I had three blank surgeries, that's my vision. I can't come back. I don't travel. Now I feel really good, my health is excellent. I can still go out and shoot jump shots."

Looking dapper still, Dennis Ramel ruled the 6-foot-5 rookie in the 1987 season before he was traded to Purefoods in exchange for Jerry Codinera.

FROM COURT TO CLASSROOM: Brown is principal of New Hidden School in California

Brown returned to the Philippine basketball scene in 1988 when he joined Manufacturers Cement and helped the team win the Reinforced Conference title.

"My heart is here in the Philippines, so sooner or later, I'll be back for good. It's just a question of when," said Brown, the 1985 PBA MVP and 1985 Rookie of the Year and two-time All-Star with Great Taste and San Miguel.

"Honestly, I don't know if I have the patience to coach today's players. I might be too demanding, but I like the idea of building a season. To be in the position to help build a team. To create memories to share."

Brown will be at Robinsons Midtown Marilao on July 13, Robinsons Galleria on July 14 and Robinsons Forum on July 15.

"This is something I'm very appreciative of. I'm humbled," said Brown.

42-strong PH squad opens Callaway Junior World bid today

SAN DIEGO, California—The youngsters get tougher each year as they toil in the Philippine contingent known that the Callaway Junior World Golf Tournament is no picnic. Victory will go to the best prepared of the lot.

The arrival of well-trained talents from China has made the task even more formidable as 42 Filipino standouts troop to 11 different golf courses which will host the various age group competitions of the Junior World starting Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila).

Part of an international cast that has grown to 1,200 players from 30 countries and 43 clubs, the Filipinos, supported by Philippine Airlines and the International Container Terminal Services, Inc., will be vying in all 12 divisions for boys and girls over 50 holes, except in the 13-17 years which is for 72.

Two of the team's strongest bets are Jed Ilo in the 7-8 years and Bernard Gilsenan Jr. in the girls' 9-10. Both are coming off impressive wins in the San Diego Junior Masters over the weekend.

Mia Legaspi, Princess Espanol and Ramon of the Filipinos, who were flown into California in time by the country's flag carrier as champions in their respective divisions, are also tipped to produce solid against the tough international cast.

"We have better chances in the lower age groups, but those in the 13-17 and 13-14 may just pull a surprise," said Luigi Villareal, head of delegation and president of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines. "We're hoping for the best."

The Philippine delegation

Class A (Boys) (Host: Torrey Pines) Boys—Jed Ilo (Manila), Lance Lu (Manila), Lu Wang (Subic), Clark—Princess Espanol, Stella Grace Espanol, Ramon Espanol, Carlo Alcala

Class B (Boys)—Ian Rocha, Bernardo Espanol, Carlo Espanol, Gabriel Espanol, Lance Sarte—Ria Legaspi, Sophia Grace Espanol, Ramon Espanol, Carlo Alcala

Class C (Girls) (Host: Rancho Bernardo)—Mia Legaspi, Princess Espanol, Stella Grace Espanol, Ramon Espanol, Carlo Alcala

Class D (Girls) (Host: Rancho Bernardo)—Mia Legaspi, Princess Espanol, Stella Grace Espanol, Ramon Espanol, Carlo Alcala

Class E (Girls) (Host: Rancho Bernardo)—Mia Legaspi, Princess Espanol, Stella Grace Espanol, Ramon Espanol, Carlo Alcala

Class F (Girls) (Host: Rancho Bernardo)—Mia Legaspi, Princess Espanol, Stella Grace Espanol, Ramon Espanol, Carlo Alcala

World of Sports

Wiggins tops Tour time trial

BESANCON, France—If Monday's time-trial in the Tour de France was "the test of truth"—as Dowsley Wiggins' mum and Cadel Evans had said—then the Englishman passed it with flying colors.

The 31-year-old Olympic champion lifted his game, aiming to better Fred Rodriguez's record of 1 hour, 2 minutes, 52 seconds to win by the first Briton to don the leader's yellow jersey.

"That was my physical best workout," he said of the race against the clock—a discipline he loves—at the 41.5-kilometer (25.8-mile) jaunt from this ex-Roman to Besancon. "It's probably my best time trial ever."

Defending champion Evans of Australia, seen as Wiggins' greatest threat, placed a disappointing sixth. He called Wiggins and his lieutenant Christopher Froome, who was second, "very, very, very strong riders."

A day earlier, Peter Sagan, the runner of the competition's maillot in the first Tour de France stage, was among those who fell in the wet.

Wiggins put his work ethic that has elevated cycling fortune to become an Olympic pursuit gold medalist, and pedaled with rhythmic and unrelenting discipline to one 20-second faster than Froome. AP

Judge junks Armstrong plea

AUSTIN, Texas—A federal judge has dismissed Lance Armstrong's quick setback Monday as he went to court to save his seven Tour de France titles and his reputation in one of the greatest cyclists's fall.

Armstrong filed a lawsuit aimed at preventing the US Anti-Doping Agency from moving ahead with charges that he used performance-enhancing drugs throughout much of his winning career.

But within hours, US District Court Judge Sam Sparks dismissed the 80-page complaint. He could amend more detailed to write up public opinion to Armstrong's favor than based on the legal argument.

Sparks, however, did not rule on the merits of Armstrong's claims and said he will hear the lawsuit. At morning after today Tim Herman said he could do that as early as Tuesday.

"When [Sparks] speaks, I listen," he said. "It doesn't change the legal issues involved or any of the relief that we seek. I certainly heard what Judge Sparks said. I intend to conform my conduct precisely." AP

Terry faces racism charges

LONDON—Tyre reader after starring for England at the four-team Championship, John Terry was in a London courtroom on Monday, facing the risk player he is accused of racially abusing during a globally televised Premier League match last year.

From the dock, the Chelsea captain, 31-year-old, spoke only to confirm his name, address, occupation and date of birth. London Chief Magistrate told of his anger that an on-pitch confrontation had allegedly descended into racism.

The 31-year-old Terry, who accuses his friend of blowing the racism claim, faces a maximum fine of £2,500 if he becomes the first top football player in English and consecutive racial abuse during a game.

"The records we need demonstrated that this fallout on Mr. Ferdinand's character, or presumed membership, of a racial group," prosecutor Duncan Penny said, suggesting the case that is expected to last five days in front of judge either from injury. AP

JERON Teng (right) of La Salle will have at least two high-profile clashes with Rachel Rawlins and the Ateneo Blue Eagles. EDGAR ALTAYO

Prolific Teng leads UAAP rookie bunch

By Jeanine W. Faye

A FORMER high school scoring champion heads a stellar rookie cast when Season 75 of the UAAP men's basketball tournament flies off this Saturday at Mall of Asia Arena.

La Salle's Jeron Teng, who once exploded for 104 points in a single game with Xavier, heads this year's batch of freshmen that also includes Philippine youth team stars and several foreign standouts.

"I know there's a big pressure on me, but I know my teammates and coaches are here to help me," said Teng, a 6-foot-2 shooting guard and two-time PBA cager Alvin Teng.

Diamond youth team members Gideon Ilustrisimo and Kiefer Ravena, both 6-foot-5, will suit up for four-time champion Ateneo, while Henry Asiong will try to help turn around the University of the Philippines' campaign.

"Kiefer has a shoulder injury so we don't expect him to start off yet, so it will be Fortier who will be the one getting playing time," Ateneo coach Norman Black said of the two-way big man.

Both Ilustrisimo and Asiong, a 6-foot-7 point guard from Cebu, cast aside with the Energen Pilipinas cadet-16 squad that captured the Southeast Asian Basketball Association Cadets crown and finished a fourth in the Fiba Asia last year.

Rawlins (junior Anthony Hargrove (transferee) of the Eastern University, Hotel manager Mediatrice Gamboa-Cruz of National University and Matthew Bill (Ateneo) of UP are also expected to make an impact.

But Bill, a nephew of former PBA star Bong Hawkins, has yet to complete the documents the league requires from foreign players.

"We're processing it already, the documents will be ready before the second round," said UP coach Haldy Dundon.

Ardina books US Women's Am golf slot

DOTTIE Ardina scrambled with a 74 at the tough Scenic Golf Club in San Ramon, California, Monday to salvage joint fourth place and a berth in the US Women's Amateur set next month in Ohio.

Ardina, 18, fought back with eight par in the closing holes of the hilly, 6,400-yard, par-72 layout as the top ICTSI-backed her saved a new, even card and gained a share of fourth with Courtney Stockford and Gaby Sanchez in the one-for-US Amateur qualifier.

Grace Ho fired a one-under 71 to top one of the Sectional Qualifiers for the annual event set Aug. 6 to 12 in Cleveland with Kim Cho sharing joint second with Cindy Child with 73.

While Ardina, winner of this year's BML Opens, the SEGC Juniors in Kuala Lumpur and the Philippine Amateur Match Play Championship, advanced, ICTSI teammate Rita Pinote failed to survive from a poor start. Jumping home with a 76 and winning the eight-player out.

DOTTIE Ardina shows off her US Women's Amateur qualifier's certificate

PH Olympians doing well in London

LONDON—The seven Filipino athletes vying to training ahead of the 2012 Olympic Games plunged into the second week of the ramp up Monday at three world-class venues here.

Four Philippines administrators of Rose Amorsi Lacson said practically everything went smoothly in the first week of the three-week buildup, where Filipino athletes trained side by side with athletes from the host nation and several other countries.

"They're doing well and extremely happy to have settled themselves of the camp," said Lacson after a visit to one of the side training sites.

The first two PH athletes who got a taste of what it was like to train alongside Olympians from Britain, Singapore and Bahrain at the Surrey Sports Park were Asunnor Adkins and Annie Ding Lacson, who will see action in the 100-m freestyle and 200-m free, respectively.

"It's really a good opportunity to train with them," said swimming coach Carlos Brenan.

Over at the centuries-old Churchill downing village inside the sun Silva Wycombe estate, short shooter Paul Brian Rosario ended the cabled week getting good, kind words from coach Guy Conrad and shooting sports psychologist Lesley Goddard.

"He was decent with deliberation and his learned stress relieving techniques," said Conrad.

Pleased with the positive results of the camp, PH team chief of mission Manny Lopez said he's confident that the experience gained from joining the camp "will carry our athletes in good mind when the battles begin".

The other Filipinos training here are boxers Mark Anthony Barriga, weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz, long jumper Marestella Torres and 3,000-m hurdler Rene Herrera, accompanied by coaches Raul Velasco (boxing), Tony Agustin (weightlifting) and Joseph Sy (track and field).

GT series fourth leg slated at Clark track

300 drivers gear up for seven-race battle to be run by Subaru Cheer title bids kick in the fourth leg of the 2012 Yokohama Philippine GT Championship Series on Sunday at the Clark International Speedway.

Defending champion Vincent Piedmonte seeks another crucial win to cement his precarious lead against four other drivers contending in the event sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines.

Spicing up the event is the second leg of the Pilot Powered Philippines 2012 where Kikuko Hirata goes for a repeat over driver Japanese rivals Yusuke Hiwatari and Hisanori Ikawa.

The Vibe Rounds Philippines 2012 is best described as the entry level on beginner level for hatchbacks and circuit debutes who moved up to the Formula Racing.

Also scheduled are the Hilux Cup and the Honda Sports Civic Club (HSCC) races.

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Ateneo still UAAP favorite

IT WAS such a huge venue for a press conference where less than 300 guests were expected to attend, but this year's UAAP host National University must have wanted to show off the pool, now The Arena at the Mall of Asia.

Owned by the Sen of SM, the Arena will be the official home of the UNAP for this year at least. The SM also own MJ, if you still don't know.

MJ found representative Bibi Ortigas, who is this season's UAAP chair, admitted he did not know the usual marketing exercise of this sport to sports center, but said it must be in the ballpark of 16,000.

Last Monday during the preseason press conference jointly hosted by NU and television network ABS-CBN, I found two presidents of sports actually that officiated reply "We'll take it one game at a time."

Norman Black said it then—ateneo

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

officially—while he and the Blue Eagles were pouring through the lobby of the venue.

Somebody had asked Norman how confident he was of achieving a one-game at the UAAP and that was his safe answer.

The second time I heard the same reply was during the media portion of the day's program where each of the coaches was asked to talk about his team and its prospects for the 75th season.

University of the East coach Nerry Cadiente declined to make a prediction for his Red Warriors and pitched out Ateneo as "still the team to beat." Promising everyone that he "will find a way to win," he said he will take it one game at a time.

The Warriors sailed east to last (7th) last season.

As for Ateneo, although he cautiously says it will be tough and that every team is capable of beating any team, he said he is looking forward to a good year which will also be his last in the UAAP.

Typically Norman, he threw several bit chances of making a five-peat.

All the other coaches unanimously tagged the Blue Eagles as the team to beat.

Adamson's Leo Austria named the best NU Bulldogs as "the contender."

The Bulldogs currently made a case for themselves by sweeping their way to the preseason crown. Adamson made the Final Four last year, along with the Dela Salle Green Archers, tied Tolentino's of Sto. Tomas and the Eastern Redwarriors, which overcame a twice-to-beat disadvantage to bid Adamson's Final Four.

Its member Lee made the preseason All-Star Team selection, who will be led by former UAAP MVP SB Garcia, have the strongest and deepest lineup.

The lower four of the field claim to have "sentient" aspirations and that is to make it to the Final Four.

DLSU, once the anchored of history, will be trying to make an appearance in the last two seasons, although an Ateneo-La Salle game will always have a full-packed attendance.

"Our goals are modest," said coach Gee Abanilla. "We aim to make it to the Final Four."

Another rebel remains: Emilio Capuangco, who has been diligently watching the La Salle Games, both juniors and seniors, has to say about that

Stellar cast in Pasay 6-cock derby Friday

MORE than 80 championship hopefuls plunge into action this Friday when the much-awaited Pasay 20th Anniversary 6-Cock Derby unfolds at the Pasay City Cockpit.

Participants are hostile Friday's 2-inch eliminations to qualify for the 4-cock ground finals next Monday.

The Pasay Anniversary Derby, which gathers the country's top gamefowl breeders, purebreed sabungeros in each of the last three years—Gerry Suarez in 2008, Gov. Eddie Rong Plaza in 2010 and Jun Santiago last year.

Suarez also is the last big derby before the installing season, pit owner agro Eric dela Rosa and Bombon Glaze expect participants to field their winningest fighters.

Supported by Inquipuan Complex, at 3000, the topes tackled is hosted by Rep. Patrick Antonio, Dela Rosa and Glaze.

Deadline for submission of entries at 9 p.m. tomorrow. For inquiries, call 843-1091/ 841-1746 or 0166793.

The engrossing season at the event starts on Aug. 27 via the Pasay Inquipuan Big Event 8-Sing Derby.

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Aplus METRO
Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

SC halts fixed pay scheme for bus drivers, conductors

By Marlon Ramos

BUS OPERATORS opposing the recently imposed fixed salary scheme for their drivers and conductors can still keep a tight hold on their purse strings.

The Supreme Court has temporarily halted the implementation of the organic order of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) which compelled bus firms to have a regular wage system for drivers and conductors in Metro Manila.

Ms. Victoria Glossary Garcia, the high court's acting spokesperson, said the tribunal in full-court session yesterday granted the petition filed last week by bus transport groups.

The petition, filed by the Provincial Bus Operators Association of the Philippines, the Southeast Luzon Bus Operators Association Inc., the Inter-City Bus Operators Association and the City of San Jose del Monte Bus Operators Association, challenged the DOLE and LTFRB orders for purportedly being unconstitutional.

Garcia said the tribunal issued a status quo ante (SQA) order instead of a temporary restraining order (TRO), which the bus groups sought in their pleading.

According to her, an SQA order has the same effect as that of a TRO as it "implicitly states that it enjoins or prohibits an action by the respondents."

"SQA orders are issued to preserve the situation prevailing between the parties before the issuance of the assailed actions," Garcia explained in a news briefing.

"The court found that there is a need to first preserve the situation [before the DOLE and LTFRB enforced their orders]," she added.

The LTFRB and DOLE implemented the new wage system for bus drivers and conductors in order to address road accidents, saying that drivers tend to commit traffic violations, like reckless driving, just to get as many passengers as they can under the old "boundary" or commission system.

Because of the high court's order, Garcia said the bus companies can return to the commission system which they had been implementing for years.

She said the court also directed the DOLE and LTFRB to submit their respective comments on the petition within 10 days.

The DOLE and LTFRB started enforcing the fixed salary rates on July 1, but Garcia said the bus companies should compute the appropriate wages for their

SEE ALSO PAGE A24

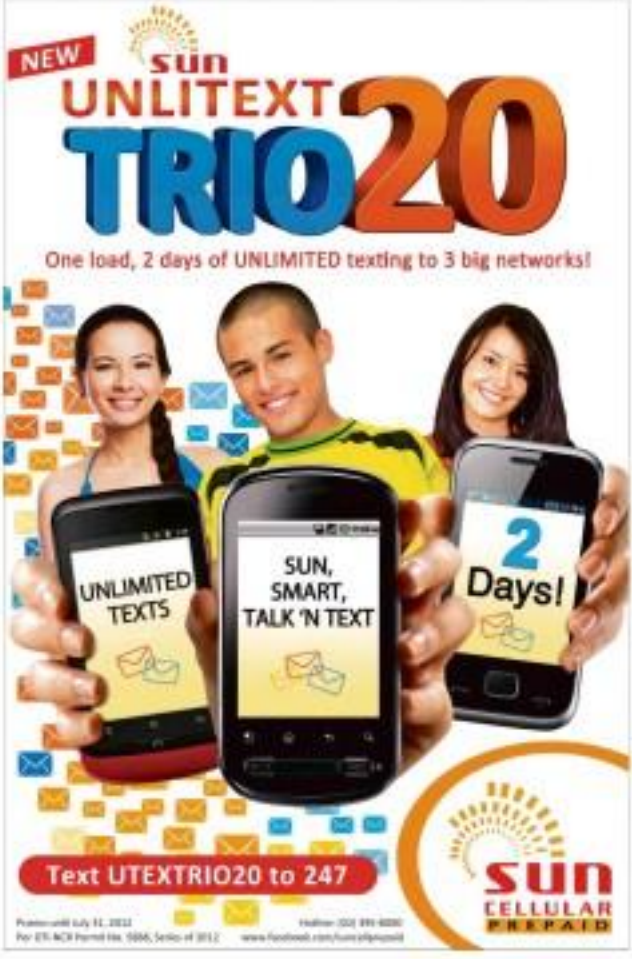
How do you fit 12,000 buses on Edsa?

By Miko Morales

HOW DO you fit some 12,000 buses into two lanes on Edsa that can only accommodate 1,600?

The question continued to trap the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) two days after it solidly enforced bus

CONTINUED ON PAGE A24



QC seizes Manila Seedling Bank lot

City gov't cites P57M in unpaid taxes, issues ejection order

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE QUEZON City government yesterday took over the seven-hectare lot occupied by the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation Inc. (MSBFI) for the past 35 years after the one-year redemption period for the auctioned property expired last Friday.

City Administrator Dr. Victor Endriga told the reporters in an interview that the takeover was prompted by the MSBFI's failure to pay more than P57 million worth of taxes in the city government over a 10-year period.

He added that Mayor Herbert Bautista earlier survey the foundation and asked it to vacate the lot at the corner of Quezon Avenue and Edsa.

The area, part of the Quezon City Central Business District being pushed by the city government, is owned by the National Housing Authority (NHA).

"The city treasurer's office auctioned off the Manila Seedling Bank foundation property on July 7, 2011, for nonpayment of real property taxes from 2001 to 2011 amounting to P57.208 million," Endriga said.

The foundation had until July 6 this year to redeem the property but it failed to settle its dues, leading to the takeover, he added.

According to him, the property is taxable since the foundation is a private entity and has been issued portions of the lot to tenants.

Following the takeover, Bautista ordered the city government's Department of Public Order and Safety and the Quezon City Police District to secure the area.

The MSBFI's lawyer, however, slammed the city government's move, saying it has no authority to take over the property.

"For to many years, the property was owned by the NHA and [it had the] better sense not to grab the property," Atty. Pergillano Jr. told the reporters over the phone.

'This is martial law'

"Una nga'y pinaaway ng property does not depend on the city government," he added.

He said that the city government should have gotten an ejectment order from the court instead of just writing a letter to the foundation.

Pergillano added that contrary to the city government's claim, the foundation should not be held liable for the unpaid taxes under the Civil Code.

He told the reporters that personnel from the city government have banned the entry of persons vehicles into the compound, preventing some of the MSBFI's tenants from going in.

"It's like martial law here," Pergillano said.

According to him, the foundation will contest the city government's order by seeking a temporary restraining order from the court.

Endriga, however, said that the P57.208 million real property tax liability of the MSBFI was upheld by the Supreme Court in a ruling it issued two years ago.

In 2009, Judge Ruben Veryan of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 219 declared null and void the first auction of the MSBFI property which was carried out in December 2008.

The foundation filed an appeal that went all the way to the Supreme Court which ruled in the city government's favor in 2010 after it denied the petition for review filed by the MSBFI.

The high court's decision became final and executory on July 21, 2011, after which a second auction was conducted in July that same year.

FORBIDDEN GARDEN The watering atmosphere at the Manila Seedling Bank compound is shadowed by City Hall's seizure notice on Tuesday. VANESSA SEVILLO

SAT UNDER ATTACK Water seepage from busted pipes upstairs rinses over the priceless manuscripts adorning the Batangas Gov Antonio Villegas. JOVIEN ALVA

Manila City Hall gets ₱20M to save 'Botong' mural

By Jaymee T. Gamil

A NATIONAL treasure has come under threat because of Manila City Hall's leaky plumbing.

The Department of Tourism yesterday donated P20 million to the Manila city government for the restoration of a 47-year-old mural by acclaimed artist Carlos "Botong" Francisco.

The mural titled "Filipinas Struggle Through History" has graced the upper walls of the Batangas Gov Antonio Villegas at the mayor's office since 1965.

The elaborate three-panel mural by the late National Artist from Angono, Rizal province, showcases the history of Manila, from the pre-colonial reign of the rajahs to the American period, as well as the heroism of Dr. Jose Rizal and Andres Bonifacio.

Manila's engineering department recently reported that a plumbing problem had caused water to seep through a portion of the mural. The leak was traced to the floor above the hall.

Cristina Cruz Iturzaeta, former tourism secretary and now vice chair of the Manila Historical and Heritage Commission, suggested that Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim seek the help of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (Tieza) to save the painting.

On Monday, Lim and Tieza general manager Mark Lapid signed a memorandum of agreement for the restoration of the mural and for the turnovers of the P20 million donation from the Department of Tourism to cover the restoration costs.

Arsenio, cultural properties officer chief Angel Ramirez, Art Conservator and Restoration Specialists presidents Lourdes Revilla, and National Museum curator Jeremy Isaac Maam Labrador were also present at the signing.

How do you fit 12,000 buses on Edsa?

From page A19

said, adding that he expected the bottlenecks to develop because drivers were again adjusting to the revised "yellow lane" policy.

The policy which was initially set in 1995 through a Metro Manila Council resolution, highlighted the "oversupply" of buses in the capital, Tolentino said.

In turn, he said, enabled the agency to pinpoint two major choke points on Edsa. The southbound lane at the corner of Quezon Avenue and the northbound lane at Ortigas Avenue.

At a meeting, he said, the MMDA is considering extending the length of the bus-only lane from the regular lanes to discourage erring bus drivers from entering bottlenecks by ordering the private bus lanes at the last kilometer.

Under the 1989 MMC resolution, the bus-only lanes start on both sides Edsa were designated as yellow lanes for the use of public utility vehicles.

Initially, all city and provincial buses were required to stay within these lanes at all times and were also prohibited from using flyovers and most of the underpasses.

At present, however, provincial buses are already allowed on flyovers during weekdays from 4 a.m. to 10 a.m., and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.—to ease the load on yellow lanes especially during rush hours.

On a positive note, Tolentino observed that the revised restrictions had discouraged speeding and reckless driving. "Have you noticed that buses aren't racing along Edsa anymore?" he said.

Tolentino reiterated his proposal for bus companies with small fleets to just merge together or to be more economically viable and competitive. "This will allow them to pool their limited resources which will benefit the public. It has been done in the airline and banking industries."

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

PLDT would like to inform the public that PLDT's Optional Call Plans will now include unlimited local calling feature.

PLDT's Optional Call Plans will allow subscribers to enjoy unlimited local calls for a Monthly Service Fee of only P800 (net-in) for residential and P1,000 (net-in) for business.

Interested subscribers may apply at any PLDT Business Office or via Hotline 171 or 101-888.

PLDT

SC halts fixed pay scheme

From page A13

coordinators and drivers using the previous commission scheme.

The law companies argued that the new system violated the terms of their existing collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) with their employees, which used "products of income and hourly wage rates."

"Most of such arrangements had been in place since time immemorial and had, in many instances, proven to be lower" and resulted in "higher pay to more drivers and conductors, more than what the minimum wage levels offer," they said.

"The DOLE order does violate the equal protection clause in the Constitution in (it was) aimed to cover only Metro Manila buses and not the entire transport sector throughout the country, even though they are similarly situated," the bus firms said in a 24-page petition.

Reached for comment, DOLE National Capital Region Director Alan Macasaet said: "We will have to respect the order of the court and step our inspections."

He said DOLE-NCR had started inspecting 158 bus companies in Metro Manila over the past two weeks and was actively scheduled to award compliance certificates to the more than 100 companies found to be observing labor standards.

"We now have five companies with incomplete certificates and are expecting four more companies to get theirs this week," he noted. *With a report from Philip C. Tubeza*

'She's on the brink of insanity'

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE 28-YEAR-OLD woman who performed a Caesarean section on herself inside her Tondo home, Manila, Monday last week is teetering on the brink of insanity.

This was the diagnosis of a psychiatrist who was asked by the police to determine the mental state of the eight-month pregnant woman who cut herself open with a kitchen knife without any anesthesia, took her baby out of her womb and then tried to sew her wound shut.

The baby was born alive but died of asphyxiation after her mother placed her in a blanket and forgot all about her. The woman's arm later found by an aunt who took her to a hospital where doctors closed her wound.

In her report, Dra Ana Christina Lana said the woman, Dr. Rina Joy Aguadera said that she woman, whose husband left her last year, was suffering from depression while her mental condition was burdening all psychosis.

Aguadera advised authorities against further interviewing the woman who was facing abortion charges, saying she could sink deeper into depression if she was forced to recount what she went through.

This was supported by hospital director Dr. Mario Lim who told the inquirer that a trigger—whether recalling a previous experience or being given new information—would drive the woman mad.

"The report states that [she] is [a] borderline [case]. Her depression was what apparently drove her to undertake the abortion. A trigger would take her over the edge," Lim said.

But despite her condition, the woman could now go home although her discharge would have to be approved by the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Manila police as she has to face the consequence of her action, he added.

Dr Justice revealed that the woman's family had expressed anger over what they called a violation of their kin's right to privacy as a hospital patient.

"But we explained that we have done our best to stay silent about the case and ... keep [it] confidential by not issuing detailed medical bulletins on her treatment. We have no control over the information the media gets outside the hospital facility," Lim told the inquirer.

Manila police homicide investigators were also eyeing the filing of an obstruction of justice charge against the woman's next-of-kin.

"We don't have leads to our investigators and have even denied that [there was] an abortion," MPD homicide section chief Senior Insp. Joselito de Ocampo said.

He added that during questioning, the couple claimed that the baby was buried at Manila North Cemetery.

"They lied about that," he said. "We were able to retrieve the body. Doon[it was] na sana 600 meters away from their house in Sta. Mesa."

METROBRIEFS

PCOMS, PAID to host international convention

THE PHILIPPINE College of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (PCOMS) will host the second session of the advanced series by the International Association of Oral and Maxillofacial (IAOMS) Foundation Education Committee on July 13-15 at the Long Center of the Philippines. In this year's midyear convention, PCOMS headed by Dr. Ida Inductivo-Benavag is joined by the Philippine Academy of Implant Dentistry (PAID) led by Dr. Leo Bertolli de Castro. The conference will feature lectures on Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) and Implant Dentistry, among the lecturers are Prof. Luis Vega (USA), Prof. Yasu Takahashi (Japan) and Prof. Bien Tee Khim (Singapore). On-site registration fee is P5,000. Contact Dr. Ida Inductivo-Benavag at 0911-829-3988 and Dr. Anna Margaret Gonzales at 0941-8242019.

DID YOU KNOW

THE METRO MANILA, Capital Region accounted for an average of 62.2 percent of airport passenger traffic in the country from 2007 to 2011, according to recent data from the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines. This translates to an average of 19.6 million passengers for the period. *Ishmael Rivera, Inquirer Research*

Isang Pagpupugay sa Pagdiriwang ng

Ika-143 Anibersaryo ng Kapanganakan ni Dr. Pio Valenzuela

Si Dr. Pio Valenzuela ang naging dasa sa paglago ng Katipunan mula 300 tungo sa 30,000 mga kasapi. Dahil ito sa pagtuo niya ng pakinayahan ng kilusan, ang "Kalayaan," na sagimulat sa marami sa tunay na kahulugan ng bayan.

Sa gitna ng pangabuh sa buhay at pamilya, lakas-loob na tinuges ni Dr. Pio ang tawag ng kabayanihan nang ihim siyang sumapi sa Katipunan sa edad na 23 noong 1893 at naging mangasag na rebolusyonaryo habang nag-aaral ng medisina sa Universidad ng Santo Tomas.

Bilang isa sa "Kataas-taasang Tatlo" o Triumvirate ng Katipunan kasama sina Bonifacio at Jacinto, ginampanan ni Pio ang mahahalaga't mapanganib na misyon. Isa rito ang ihim na paghiwta kay Rizal na Dapitan upang talakayin ang planong himagsikan.

Pagkaraan ng rebolusyon ay nanungkulan siya bilang pisano ng bayan ng Polo as gobernador ng Bulacan. Pagkaretiro sa pulitika, ipinagpatuloy niya ang pagtulong sa kapwang mga kabeteyan bilang manggagamot ng mahihirap.

Dahil sa kanyang mahalagang papel sa kasaysayan, ipinangalan sa kanya ang bayan ng Polo na kanyang sinilangan at pinaglingkuran. Ito na ngayon ang mauniad na Lungsod ng Valenzuela na nagpapatuloy sa pagkilos sa hamon ng kasularan at nagbibigay pugay kay Dr. Pio A. Valenzuela -- **Bayani ng Bayan at Inspirasyon ng Kabataan.**

Pio Valenzuela
Bayani ng Bayan, Inspirasyon ng Kabataan
July 11, 1869 - April 6, 1956

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The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

New crisis looms in Egypt over parliament's fate

MORSI

CAIRO—A new showdown loomed in Egypt on Monday as the country's highest court stood by its ruling that dissolved parliament last month, challenging the new Islamist president's plans to reconvene the lower chamber in defiance of the military.

If he goes ahead, Mohammed Morsi would be risking a dramatic step away from the outreach that characterized his first days in office. It's a tough fight, though, and the president could lose it along with most of his already diminished powers.

The military, which handed power to Morsi on June 30 after ruling the country for 16 months, delivered a thinly veiled warning to the president, saying it would continue to support the country's "high loyalty, constitution and law"—language that seems to still see itself and watch the rulings of the country's top court ignored or breached.

At the same time, the Supreme Constitutional Court sent out a clear signal that it will not bow to Morsi's will, saying in a statement after an emergency session on Monday that its June 14 ruling to invalidate the Islamist-dominated parliament was final and binding.

"Morsi's move sets the stage for a potentially very serious political and constitutional crisis," said Nathan Brown, an expert on Egypt from the New York-based Carnegie Foundation.

Morsi, through his spokesperson Yasser Ali, issued his decision to reconvene the 508-seat chamber on Tuesday was an "assertion of the people's will."

His presidential decree also calls for new parliamentary elections after a new constitution is adopted, something that is not expected before the end of the year—an effort, according legitimacy to a legislature the country's highest court ruled is to be invalid.

In its ruling last month, the supreme court declared that a third of parliament's members were illegally elected under a law that allowed candidates from political parties to compete for seats that had been set aside for independents (based on that verdict, the then-ruling military disbanded the house, in which Islamists controlled more than 70 percent of the seats).

In the days that followed, the generals pushed through a series of decrees that gave themselves legislative powers, as well as control over the drafting of a new constitution and the national budget, leaving the presidency largely with ceremonial presidential powers. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

India buys Mahatma papers

NEW DELHI—The Indian government has bought thousands of letters, papers and photographs which shed light on the life of Indian independence hero Mahatma Gandhi, days before they were to be auctioned at Bonhams's in London, a government official said. India paid around $3 million for the papers, which cover Gandhi's time in South Africa, his return to India and his contentious relationship with his family. The auction that was to be held on July 4 has been called off. "These [papers] are of huge importance to India to carry out research on the Gandhian values on various things. That is why we decided to purchase them," said a senior official at India's ministry of culture in New Delhi, who asked not to be named. The documents will be placed with the National Archives of India in New Delhi. The documents previously belonged to relatives of filmmaker Kalidas Vach, a German-born Jewish architect who met Gandhi in South Africa in 1904. Reuters

Congo warlord jailed

THE HAGUE—Delivering its first sentence, the International Criminal Court jailed Congolese warlord Thomas Lubanga Dyilo for 14 years on Tuesday for recruiting child soldiers. Lubanga was found guilty in March of abducting boys and girls under the age of 15 and forcing them to fight in a war in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2002 and 2003. The sentencing was a landmark for the first permanent international criminal court, which recently celebrated its 10th anniversary. Presiding judge Adrian Fulford said the time Lubanga had spent in the court's detention center in The Hague would be taken into account, meaning his sentence has nearly eight months to run. Fulford urged states the ICC's founding prosecutor, Luis Moreno Ocampo, who recently completed his term of office, for his conduct of the case. Reuters

Park seeks S. Korea presidency

SEOUL—Park Geun-hye, the daughter of an assassinated South Korean dictator, will make history in a male-dominated society if her campaign to become the country's first female president succeeds. Park, who on Tuesday declared her candidacy for the conservative ruling New Frontier Party, lost both her parents to gunmen while she was still in her twenties. She enjoys high popularity among many conservative and older voters nostalgic for the rapid economic growth under her father Park Chung-hee, who ruled from 1961 to 1979 after seizing power in a coup. Park, 60, is unlikely to face a serious challenge in her party's primary and analysts say she stands a good chance of victory in the Dec. 19 poll. AFP

Chavez: I'm totally cancer-free

CARACAS—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez insisted on Monday he is "totally" cancer-free a little more than a year since he first revealed his diagnosis and said he was ready to take on a re-election battle. "Free, totally free," he said when asked by a reporter if he had beaten the disease, as he gears up for the campaign against rival Henrique Capriles ahead of the Oct. 7 vote. "Thanks to God I am here and recovered, like I feel in better physical conditions, and I really don't think this expression 'physical restrictions' will be a factor in the campaign," he told a news conference. Chavez said he had worked "with a lot of discipline" in order to overcome cancer, adding that his last radiation treatment was two months ago. Chavez has undergone surgery twice since June 2011 to remove cancerous tumors in his pelvis. The exact location and nature of the cancer has never been revealed. AFP

'Shocking' abuse in Aussie military

A DAMNING report on the Australian military on Tuesday detailed 24 allegations of rape that never went to trial and other claims that Defense Minister Stephen Smith admitted would "shock" people.

The report was commissioned by the government last year following the so-called Skype scandal, where footage of a young male recruit having sex with six unwitting female classmates was streamed online to cadets in another room.

Some of the allegations had already been revealed through the inside-the-Smith Tuesday released the entire 1,300-page document detailing 847 alleged incidents of sexual or other abuse dating back to the 1950s.

"It does raise very serious allegations and does raise matters that are deeply sensitive and they will shock some people," Smith said of the report.

As well as the rape claims, it said that "from the 1950s through to the early 1990s, many boys aged 13, 14, 15 and 16 years of age in the cadet forces suffered abuse including serious sexual and other physical abuse".

Until the 1960s, boys as young as 13 were recruited into the Navy and 23-year-olds were accepted into all three services up until the early 1980s, although the minimum joining age is now 17.

It also said: "It is certain that many young females in the defense force have been subjected to serious sexual and physical assault and other serious abuse inflicted."

The report suggested pedophiles in the past joined the military to access young people in the same way they sought out positions in orphanages, schools and churches.

Documents previously released detailed "horrific" child sex assaults and brutal initiation ceremonies and painted a culture of coverup, failure to punish perpetrators and hostility toward victims who complained.

The report used some of the accused may now hold positions in the top ranks, adding that many alleged victims never reported the abuse because of concerns they would not be believed.

The government has yet to decide on a mechanism to deal with the allegations but a full public inquiry has been suggested.

"We are not too far away from making final conclusion in this area," Smith said.

Defense Force chief Gen. David Hurley has vowed the military will cooperate fully with the government and assured that any serving personnel guilty of abuse would be brought to justice. AFP

Annan, Assad agree on new approach

DAMASCUS—UN peace envoy Kofi Annan said he and President Bashar al-Assad agreed on Monday on an approach to Syria's conflict that he would now take to the opposition, and flew on to Iran for talks with the main regional ally of Damascus.

The former UN secretary general is trying to revive his six-point peace plan, which was mocked not only by the Syrian government and rebels in April but labored because the ceasefire it was supposed to begin with never took hold.

Major powers agreed at a meeting with Annan on June 30 that a transitional government should be set up in Syria, but remain at odds over what part Assad might play in the process.

"I just had a positive and constructive discussion with President Assad," Annan said before leaving for Tehran.

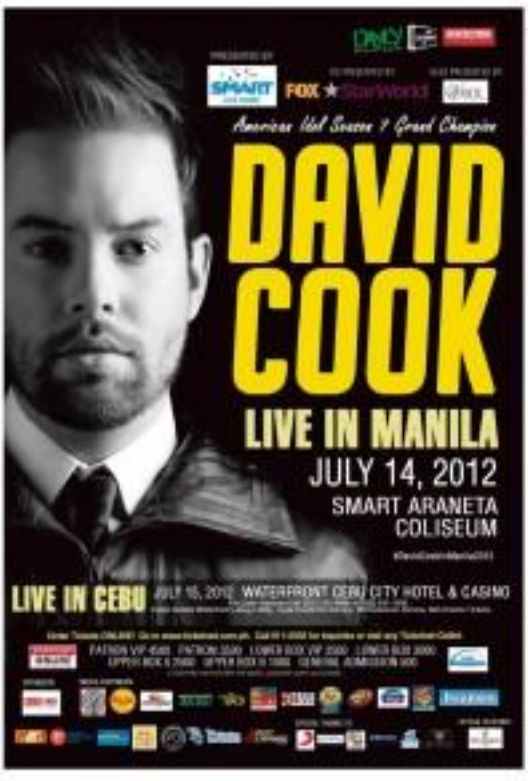
"We agreed on an approach which I will share with the opposition," he told reporters in Damascus. He gave no details, but again stressed the importance of halting violence that has killed more than 15,000 people in 16 months, by an opposition count.

Syrian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jihad Makdissi said in a Twitter message: "In both meetings we examined Annan of Syria's commitment to implement the six point plan and hoped (the) other side is eventually committed to."

In a TV interview on framing Assad said he remained committed to Annan's plan and accused the United States, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey of supplying arms and logistical support to insurgents fighting to oust 42 years of Assad family domination of the pivotal Arab state.

"We know that (Annan) is coming up against powerless obstacles but his plans should not be allowed to fail, it is a very good plan," he told Germany's ARD network.

"The main obstacle (is) that many countries don't want (it) to succeed. So they offer political support and they still send armaments and send money to terrorists in Syria," Assad said, according to a transcript of the interview, held in English. Reuters



HOTEL 101 MANILA GROUNDBREAKING

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Editor Raul G. Manalo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Mines group urged to police ranks

Big firms welcome new policy framework

By Norvel W. Domingo and Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT has called on mining companies to cooperate with a planned review of all industry operations and contracts as mandated in Executive Order No. 79, which outlined the Aquino administration's mining policy.

Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima urged the private sector—particularly the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP)—to join in the review and "police its ranks."

Large mining firms welcomed the new executive order issued by the Aquino administration and committed to work under the new mineral policy on mining.

"Basically, what is important is we already have a policy in place. There's predictability and we know that predictability is an essential element for investors. The fact that it took a while to come up with the EO is because they took into consideration the input of shareholders," Dykes Whiting, senior vice president Mike Toledo said in an interview.

Toledo said it was but fair to respect existing operating permits and "laid out those that were idle. Another positive aspect, he said, was that it affirmed that national laws would take precedence over local laws.

"Having said that, there are items which

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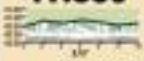
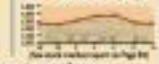
INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
July 10, 2012
41.860



STOCK MARKET
July 10, 2012
▼23.46



Stocks continue to weaken

LOCAL stocks slipped yesterday as jitters over China's slower-than-expected export growth

added to pressure from a technical correction after the index hit record highs last week.

STOCKS B4

Airplane shopping spree

IF YOU'VE been following the airlines' industry long enough, you'd know that major orders from either Airbus or Boeing are usually announced during international aviation events like the ongoing Farnborough Air Show or the Paris Air Show that are held on alternate years.

Still, at the (non?) Farnborough Air Show, the buzz is all about a huge order made by one patron for airline that has not been a regular patron of these events in recent years—Philippine Airlines.

Indeed, a cursory look at the online chatter by aviation enthusiasts reporting out of England indicates that PAL is on the verge of announcing a major deal to acquire a large number of both wide-body and single-aisle jets. (Philstandard Sun Miguel Group president Ramon Ang said that PAL would need as many as 100 new airliners as part of its re-fleeting effort). Word from Farnborough is that this upcoming deal would be close to that number.

According to that chatter, the single-aisle aircraft would likely have new generation engines—like the ones being offered by either Boeing or Airbus—which will allow operators to realize cost savings of up to 15 percent per plane (a big thing under today's green fuel regime). On the other hand, the wide-bodied aircraft (the long-ranged variety, we hear), would be used for high-volume regional routes and perhaps even a return to the lucrative Middle East routes.

The big question remains, of course: Will PAL now place its firm footing in dollar? Alexandra Dosdat L. Lucas

Smelling the deal

GMA Network chair Felipe Gozon was quick to deny that no deal has been signed for the sale of GMA7 to the group of businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan. Gozon also reported that such an agreement had been signed in the first place! Definitely not so, as was clearly reported. But the parties were "moving closer" to a deal at an indefinite price tag of P52.8 billion for the whole of GMA7—a transaction that we hear firms are but from reliable sources familiar with the impending transaction. A deal is indeed shaping up to sound like local but actual deal signing can take more time.

Also, now that DMW has started preparing the funds to close this acquisition, which will be funded by a mix of debt and equity, Mr. pallasen'dlist love of the country's biggest local banks have been brought onboard to provide financial muscle to the prospective buyout. Whether or not this deal (or more) is how one enjoys close to MVP dissolves the mist of affairs.

The redemptive value of Around P52.5 billion refers to the whole of DMW, out of which DMW will get a controlling block. While it still final is the exact percentage of stakes joining the block, predictably among the individual investors among the three firms, has controlling the network. But what's clear is that DMW is gunning for close to 60 percent (before the mandatory tender offer) control, based on equity value estimated from this assumed pricing level. It seems that such a forthcoming deal is already reflected in current market prices. GMA7 stock prices have risen 63 percent since the start of the year, thanks to the momentum even MVP's prospective buyout, but prices have firmed up of late before the 52-week high of P11. Needless to say, the market must have smelled the price tag early on. Dona C. Dumlao

Raising cash

ARTONE doubling how critical resources more Money Pangilinan is to acquiring GMA Network Inc., should see those double-digit.

The chair of Bar PLDT group yesterday had his eFLOT unit divest one of its most prized hybrid assets—its shares in technology firm Philweb—in order to raise cash for the GMA7 bid. The transaction, worth P4.5 billion, is seen by market watchers as a good move for both parties as eFLOT stands about six times its initial investment in the listed tech firm—controlled by former Malacañang Chief of Staff Ronaldo Puno and Philweb founder Dionisio Dumlao II—and Philweb will get P1.75 billion.

The Philweb shares were bought back by the individuals from the public market, which stands the first of which will be settled later this week), and will likely be resold to other business partners who have been clamoring for a piece of the Philweb action for some time now.

Puno, for his part, is also believed to have been drawn to meeting the P4.5-billion cash demand of GMA7's owners. Charlie L. Lucas

Call for Cha-Cha

THE FOUNDATION for Economic Freedom, a group of economists chaired by former Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo, is campaigning for the amendment of the Philippine Constitution to adjust restrictions on foreign investments.

"We believe that these restrictions on foreign investment in the Constitution are now outmoded and deserve to be removed from the Constitution. For example, increasing the foreign ownership of state lands from not more than 40 percent to 60 percent, where Filipinos can view foreign investments from their computers and mobile phones," FEF said in a statement yesterday.

FEF believes that these constitutional restrictions on foreign investment were only being circumvented through multiple layering, the use of dummies and the use of creative financial and legal measures.

"We call on President Aquino to convene a Constitutional Convention or Constitutional Assembly at the soonest time possible to amend and modernize the economic provisions of the Constitution," FEF said. Dawn C. Dumlao

SSS honeymoon ends

THE HONEYMOON is apparently over for SSS president and CEO Emil de Quiroz and the militant officers and employees of the state-administered pension fund.

Biz Buzz learns that SSS staffers are up in arms over what they alleged was De Quiroz' highhanded manner of "reforming" the agency. One such example—according to the disaffected employees—was Dr. Quiroz' decision to cancel the yearly regular rice subsidy (the hefty gold of employees benefits in this country).

In fact, the SSS employees' lamentations against Dr. Quiroz were recently made public in local fora. Indication: it is how many of the SSS employees have already landed on the social networking site Facebook. The SSS employees' complaint, among others, that their president had little regard for the agency's staff was abusive, and cracked the site of someone who "only intellectually supports EDSA II, of course, a translation of the pomo-ese-ing that was written in eloquent and lyrical Filipino.

The six-man pomo-ising each with a warning to the SSS chief that his...on a presidential appointment, by definition, leaves the agency eventually and that the employees will be around long after his departure.

Of course, Dr. Quiro would be wise to review the track record of his office among SSS officers and employees. The group has protested against practically every single SSS president in recent years, and—worryingly for Dr. Quiroz—succeeded in "burning" a number of them ousted. Beatriz L. Laurel

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Peso is 'top pick' of Morgan Stanley

By Michelle V. Ramos

INTERNATIONAL financial services firm Morgan Stanley has selected the peso as its latest "top pick" currency, citing the favorable economic conditions and liquidity of the Philippines.

In its latest report on currencies, Morgan Stanley told its (mid-ranking clients that the Philippine peso has so far outperformed other emerging market currencies and is also likely to keep appreciating against the dollar over the near term.

It says the peso strengthening to 40.75 against the greenback by the end of this year and one further to 40.50-41 by the end of next year.

"The (Philippine peso) continues to outperform its peers in the region because of its cyclical fundamentals," Morgan Stanley said in the report that is limited to clients. "Capital inflows to the Philippines are picking up as investors are attracted not only by strong growth conditions but also by improving credit positions of the (Aquino administration)."

In the first quarter, the Philippine economy grew 6.4 percent from a year ago, faster than the 4.9 percent registered in the same period last year. The Philippines' growth in the first three months was the second-fastest in Asia after China's 8.1 percent.

The outstanding jobs of the national government as a percentage of the country's gross domestic product has dropped over the years from a peak of 84 percent in 2004 to only about 56 percent today.

Economic officials said the declining debt burden showed the improved capacity of the Philippines to settle its debts to foreign creditors and bondholders.

Morgan Stanley also cited the improving dollar liquidity of the country that has made it more capable of meeting its foreign currency-denominated obligations.

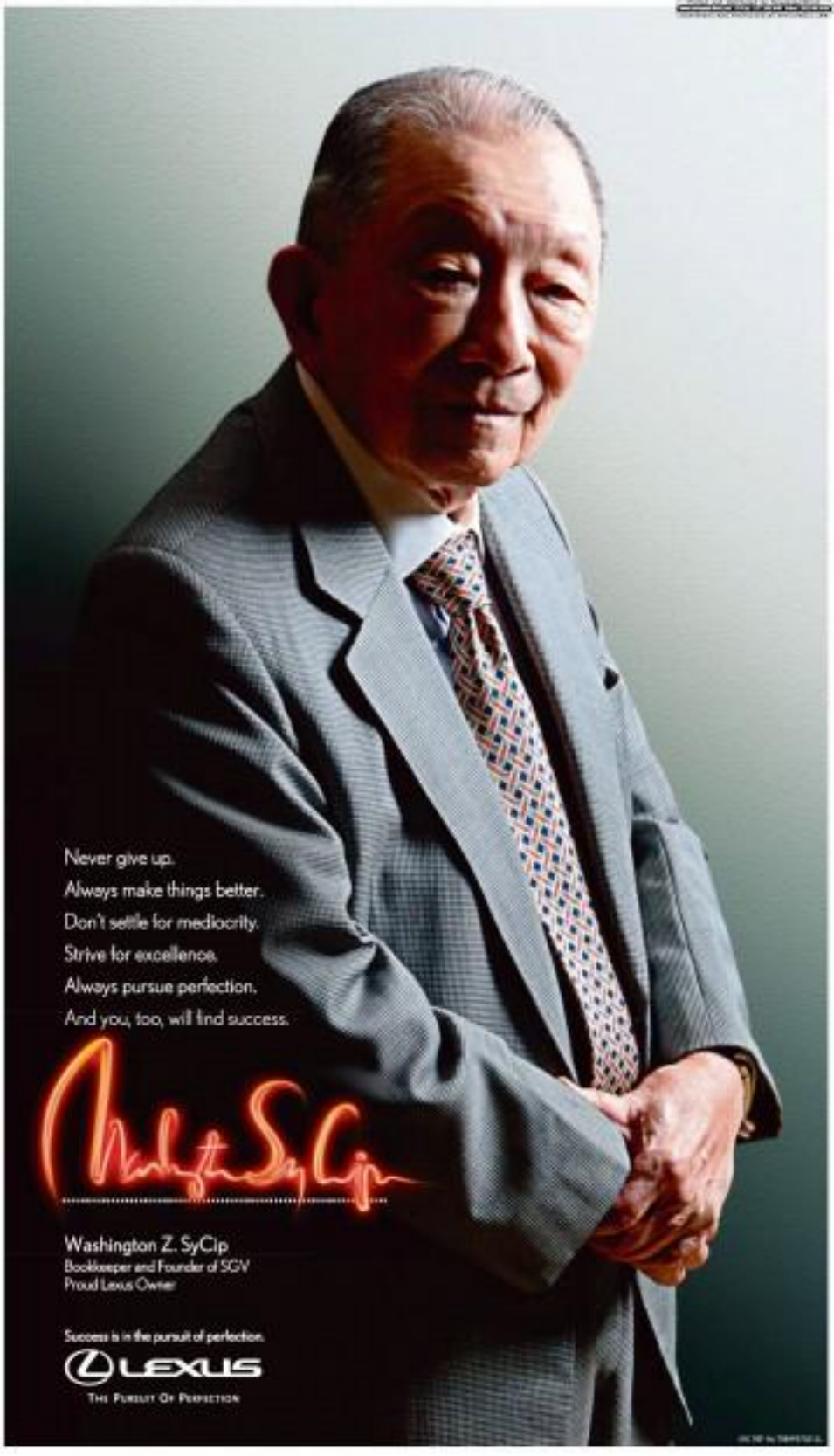
"(The peso) is supported by a positive macro dynamic of above-trend growth and external surplus—we often currency in the Asian region excluding Japan) has BoP-driven support right now. To add to this, the (peso) is supported by a twin surplus," Morgan Stanley said. The bank was referring to the surplus in the Philippines' current and capital accounts. A surplus indicates that inflows of dollars and other foreign currencies exceeded the outflows.

The BSP earlier reported that the current account of the Philippines posted a surplus of $982 million in the first quarter. The surplus was equivalent to a record of the inflows and outflows of dollars and other foreign currencies resulting mainly from export earnings, remittances, payment for imports, retirement of foreign debt.

The capital account registered a surplus of $962 million during the period. Capital account covers inflows and outflows resulting from portfolio and direct investments.

The favorable outlook on the Philippine economy by studies like Morgan Stanley has been credited for the increased appetite for peso-denominated portfolio assets, mainly stocks and bonds.

The Philippine stock Exchange index hit a record high last week, breaking into the 5,300 mark amid optimism on the economy. The rise in demand for peso-denominated portfolio assets was credited for the peso's rise to a four-year high of 41.60 against the dollar last week.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Shell still mulling over IPO

But firm will push through with projects worth $1.15B

By Aby B. Belisa

PHILIPPINE Shell Petroleum Corp. is still uncertain whether it will push through with its much delayed initial public offering, even though the oil firm is moving forward with its planned projects that will require an additional $1.15 billion in investments.

According to Shell country chair Edgar O. Chua, there are still a number of factors that Shell will need to consider in deciding whether or not to proceed with the IPO.

"We have always said ... we will listen the last The IPO, if we decide to stay here [in the Philippines] will be a question of timing, because there we will be required by law. Timing would be dependent on market, and also decision on the numbers, of some of our net cases that are pending," Chua explained.

Shell has always said that the company's plans to list on the local bourse would hinge on its decision whether it would pull the plug on its refinery operations in Tabangao, Batangas.

Only last month, during the two-day visit of President Aquino to the United Kingdom, Royal Dutch Shell Plc announced its plans to construct a $1 billion regasification terminal for liquefied natural gas (LNG) and to execute a $163-million upgrade of its 110,000-barrel-a-day refinery in Batangas.

Chua noted that it is critical for the company to resolve its "significant" tax cases before it even considers listing in order to protect their interests.

The proposed IPO has long been in overdue as the oil company is mandated to conduct the offering last 2002.

For Jollibee, earnings seen to improve in Q2

By Paolo G. Montecillo

HOME GROWN fast food giant Jollibee Foods Corp. likely posted better profit figures in the second quarter of the year, following an improvement on its transactions with the multilateral, and in some cases even decline, in food options.

Jollibee founder Tony Tan Caktiong earlier this week said that, aside from sales of its franchises, sales have also continued to improve due mainly to the country's stronger economy.

"Commodity prices are stable and are even going down. We are very bullish about the Philippines," he said.

He told reporters that this would likely translate to higher sales in the April to June period over that of the same period last year.

"Margins do not come down [since items are challenging right now. We recently include a commissary there and its capacity is not yet fully maximized. It will take time," he said.

However, the company's second quarter performance was not as strong as the first quarter where the company saw an unusual spike in demand.

Mines group

From page B1

tax feel we should be consulted to. For example, we still need to review the Local Government Code, Indigenous People Rights Act and NIRC (National Internal Revenue Code), which may have conflicting provisions with mining codes," he said, referring the position of the CORD.

Atlas Mining vice president Adrian Santos said: "Atlas supports the President in his desire to improve the statistic industry and is fully prepared to cooperate with the administration."

Positions said that a thorough review of all mining operations was requested. "To strengthen and promote an efficient and effective regulation" of the industry as well as gain popular support for the development of the country's mineral resources.

"The government has committed to [and will hold] several dialogues in various mining communities," he said. "In the same manner, those owners demand certain standards from [mining companies]."

The Roxas chief said the review was meant to ensure that mining companies were complying with the standards they have committed to in their contracts. "Those who fail to comply with their contractual obligations will be penalized," he added.

However, EO 79 only states that "environmental standards in mining, as prescribed by the various mining and environmental laws, rules, and regulations, shall be fully and strictly enforced, and appropriate sanctions meted out against violators."

Also on Monday, the CORD released a statement saying that its members "applaud" the EO's directive to ensure consistency of local, national and constitutional laws with respective to mining projects as well as the cooperation of local governments. The group was referring to Section 12 titled "Consistency of local ordinances with the Constitution and national laws/LGU cooperation."

However, some stock analysts were not too enthusiastic.

Jose Mari Lacson, head of research at Campos Lanuza & Co., noted that the Aquino government was asking Congress to enact changes to the mining law to increase royalties from mining activities. "It remains to be seen, however, how fast Congress can legislate the changes. Given this uncertainty, investors who have been jumping for joy on BPM or on PDal may have to wait a considerable amount of time before they can start commercial production," he said.

Stocks

From page B1

The Philippine Stock Exchange index lost 25.46 points or 0.4% percent to finish at 5,280.20 in mixed trade. The holding firm and property counters dragged the market lower as their indices fell more than 1 percent. The financial, industrial, services and mining/oil sector were marginally higher. Dealers said the market was hardly excited over the newly issued mining circular order.

Mkt turnover amounted to P5.16 billion. There were 76 advances, 81 declines and 47 unchanged issues.

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100,000–999,999	3.50%	3.75%	4.50%	4.75%	5.00%	7.00%
1,000,000–1,999,999	4.25%	4.50%	4.75%	5.00%	5.25%	7.00%
2,000,000–4,999,999	4.50%	4.75%	5.00%	5.25%	5.50%	7.00%
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AMA group earmarks ₱60B for projects

25 firms keen on ₱60-B LRT extension project

By Ana G. Roa

AT LEAST 25 local and foreign firms have expressed interest in the 19.8-kilometer Light Rail Transit (LRT) Line 1 Extension, Operations and Maintenance Project under the Aquino administration's Public-Private Partnership program.

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), during the pre-qualification conference yesterday, said it was reviewing the rules to determine whether 100-percent foreign-owned entities could be allowed to operate the LRT 1 project.

The Commission provides that operators of public utilities should be at least 60-percent Filipino-owned.

The project, one of the largest in the infrastructure portfolio of the government, will extend the existing LRT Line 1, which now runs from Roosevelt in Quezon City to Baclaran in Pasay City.

The firms that purchased pre-bid documents, according to the DOTC, include San Miguel Infra, Macquarie, Mitsubishi, Marubeni Corp., O.M. Consultant Inc., Sumitomo Heavy Industries and Construction Co. Ltd., Sumitomo Corp., Leighton Contractors, Hyup Salaam Hwasaeon & Engineering Co. Ltd., Hyundai Engineering & Construction Co. Ltd., Kolon Global Corp., Daelim Industrial Co. Ltd., Samsung C&T Corp., Hanjin Heavy Industries & Construction Co. Ltd., Kumho Engineering & Construction Co. Ltd., Shinsung Engineering Co. Ltd., Taisei Corp., Kajima Philippines Inc., Obayashi Corp., Toyo Engineering Corp., Lotte Engineering & Construction Co. Ltd., Daewoo Engineering & Construction Co. Ltd., Hyundai Rotem Co. Ltd., Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd., Itochu Corp., Mitsui & Co. Ltd., Nippon Sharyo Ltd., Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd., Hitachi Ltd., Nippon Koei Co. Ltd., Nippon Koei Co. Ltd., Nippon Koei Co.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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WANTED TO BUY

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID
PROCUREMENT OF DRUGS AND MEDICINES
Project Reference No.: 0006-07s-2012

1. The Philippine Heart Center, through the Corporate Budget for CY 2012 intends to apply the sum of One Million Four Hundred Fifty-Three Thousand Pesos (Php1,453,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the Procurement of Drugs and Medicines. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The Philippine Heart Center now invites bids for the Drugs and Medicines. Delivery of the Goods is required within thirty (30) days (Medicines) from receipt of Notice to Proceed. Bidders should have completed, within five (5) years from the date of submission of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

   Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Procurement Section and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on 11 July 2012 at Supply Office in the amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00). It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Philippine Heart Center, provided that bidders shall pay the cost of subsequent addenda. However, bidders who have purchased the Bidding Documents shall not be required to pay any additional fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of bids.
6. The Philippine Heart Center reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award without incurring any liability, and to waive any defect therein.

For further information, please refer to:
Engr. FERDIE A. GARCIA, MPA
BAC – Chairperson
(PNS – July 11, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Field Office No. 4A
Quezon, Province of Quezon

INVITATION TO BID
(Lease a Motorboat for Conveying of Various Fare)
As Alternative Mode (ABC) to Direct Purchase of Motorboat

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office No. 4A, is inviting interested PHILIPPINE CITIZENS/ENTITIES to participate in the bidding for the following projects:

Lease a motorboat for the conveying of Various Fare from Mainland to Kalayaan, Kalayaan Island Group (KIG), Palawan		
Lease a Motorboat for the conveying of Fishpond Fry from Mainland to Kalayaan, Kalayaan Island Group (KIG), Palawan		
Lease a Motorboat for the conveying of Fishpond Fry from Mainland to Kalayaan, Kalayaan Island Group (KIG), Palawan		

The Invitation to Bid is open to Philippine Citizens/Entities duly registered with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and licensed to engage in the business of transportation of goods and passengers.

Bidding Documents will be issued within the period as shown but not to those disqualified pursuant to the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). Bidding Documents shall be issued upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) and submitted not later than 10:00 AM of 27 July 2012. Bidding Documents may be purchased from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat, 2nd Floor, DA-RFO 4A Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of the applicable fee and presentation of the official receipt

SOUTHERN LEYTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Sony Isles, Nasipit City Southern Leyte
Tel. Nos. (082) 385-2449, (082) 385-2298,
Telefax: (082) 576-8605

INVITATION FOR BIDS No. 07-2012

SOUTHERN LEYTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (SOLECO) invites interested suppliers for the SUPPLY and DELIVERY of Line Hardware Materials, Conductor Wires, Steel Poles, Electronic/ Digital Watt-Hours & Distribution Transformers and Housewiring materials for the Coop's expansion projects under the SOTO ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM of the National Electrification administration (NEA) for Year 2011 and SOLECO's construction of double circuit lines in Sogod.

Interested bidders not yet accredited may apply for accreditation with SOLECO Accreditation Committee not later than its deadline set on **July 16, 2012**. Eligible bidders may obtain further information and secure bidding documents from SOLECO main office at Sony Isles, Nasipit City, Southern Leyte upon payment of a non-refundable bidder's fee of **THREE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P3,000.00)**.

Bidding date will be on **July 20, 2012**. Sealed proposals in two (2) copies accompanied by a Bidder's Bond in cashier's check or Manager's check in the amount of Five percent (5%) of bid price will be received by SOLECO at Sony Isles, Nasipit City on or before **10:00 AM of July 19, 2012** of which time and place the bids will be opened in the presence of bidders or authorized representatives.

SOLECO reserves the right to reject any or all bids whenever the interest of the coop so demands.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(Sgd.) **ABCE B. ARLADA III** / Chairman

Republika ng Pilipinas
Department of Agriculture
Fisheries Development Authority (BFAR)
(BFAR-Fisheries Administrative Order No. 196)
Regional Office No. VIII

INVITATION TO BID

The Fisheries Development Authority (FDA) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the procurement project:

Name of Project/Item/Package	Supply and delivery of 10,000 Tilapia at 80 to 100 fries/ 200 Tilapia per Group and Polyethylene/Nylon per Unit Fisherman Specifications
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) / Unit Cost	P1,000,000.00
Delivery Period	5,000 fries (10 days) — within Ninety (90) calendar days after receipt of a copy of the Notice to Proceed from the Contractor 5,000 fries (10 days) — 15 calendar days after 1st delivery 5,000 fries (10 days) — 30 calendar days after 2nd delivery

Bidders should have undertaken a similar requirement awarded and completed from January 2009 to December 2011 for at least 100 pieces of Tilapia fingerlings as well as the Preliminary Examination of their past contract/projects, copy/ies of which, must be submitted or the bid shall be rejected.

All participants eligible to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Site Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference/s, Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the contract provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its 2009 Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting: 9 July 2012 Hours: 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 NN and 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. only) Place: Bids and Awards Committee Office Ground Floor, 2nd Floor, Fish Banking Building J. A. Mabini corner F. Dumpit St., Barangay Tacloban, Manila
a. Pre-Bid Conference	20 July 2012, 9:30 A.M., Room BFAR
b. Opening of Bids	3 August 2012, 9:00 A.M., Room BFAR
c. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed by the revised IRR of R.A. No. 9184
d. Post-qualification	
e. Notice of Award	

The FDA and Chairman of Disbursements for Bidders may be accommodated from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the BAC Website (www.bfar.gov.ph). The complete set of the Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address stated above upon presentation of an official receipt issued by the Cashier's Office in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00). Bidder's failure thereto are required to a non-refundable fee in the amount of P1,000.00.

Only bidders who have purchased the bidding documents shall be allowed to take or participate in the pre-bidding conference, if any, on the date indicated.

The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to declare the bidding void, and to waive any formality therein, or to accept the bid most advantageous to the government. In case of any tie, lots shall be drawn by the BAC in the presence of the bidders. Furthermore, the BAC reserves the right to reject any bidder or bidders and to accept the proposal most advantageous to the agency.

(Sgd.) **RENATO L. GOMEZ**
Chairman

Blissful Sleep with Boutique

IN TODAY'S HECTICNESS world, we find that sooner (TIC) ending chores to ever enough for us to finish work, exercise and spend time with our families so much so we scrimp on one important thing: sleep. Just so we productively embrace the importance of eating a well-balanced diet, exercising regularly and having a nightly regimen for our bodies and skin to be as optimal health, as it sleep. The quality of our sleep directly affects the quality of our waking life, which includes normal sharpness, productivity, emotional balance, creativity, physical vitality and even our weight. No other activity affects so many benefits with so little effort.

It is important to know that it is not just the hours in bed that is vital, but the quality of sleep we spend in those hours. Pillows are feel groggy, light-headed or even having troubles waking up in the morning — it means we could not have a good quality of sleep. So here are a few friendly tips to give you a good night's sleep.

1. Choose a relaxing bed time routine that is calming for the body, like a hot bath, drinking milk and reading a book or magazine.

2. Set right to sleep right. Avoid eating a heavy meal that binds before going to bed as this takes more time to digest making it harder for you to sleep.

3. Create a good sleeping environment. Help your body dark and the noise level down because are much noise and light in the room may distress you making it harder for you to sleep.

Bed sense is meant to good quality bed sheets. Boutique Bed Linens by Canadian has the complete assortment. Its newly launched collections of 500 thread count Egyptian cotton and 200 thread count Egyptian cotton are a plus of beautiful elegant colors. It also has embellished and embroidered collections of Cotton USA, which are exceptionally true that add more personality to your room.

Fine sense is Egyptian cotton needs grease to 60, incredible and even by the Nile delta, its extra-long staple cotton makes a little unusually "anti-pilling" because to ends on the tapered to abrasion which essentially means pilling and damage to the fibers. It also absorbs dye better than any ordinary cotton fiber as a significant amount of difference is noticeable when it comes to brilliance and longevity. Goods customer may be the right to started in thing some feel are blended with other cotton fibers. "supima" interwoven for comfortable and Pima is the thinnest traditional by products that are made of 100% American Pima Cotton. Boutique Bed Linens' 1000 thread count Supima cotton is abnormally soft and smooth to the touch that gives you your much needed respite after a long day's work. Classy colors of grey, ecru and white with elegant embroidery and inconspicuous hems are what make this collection astonishingly supreme.

Egyptian cotton comes from where its name suggests — Egypt. The place's humidity and temperature makes it the perfect place to grow extra-long staple cotton fiber. It has high degree of softness, absorption and durability. It has also been long-famous for the luxury and smoothness that it enables. Boutique Bed Linens' 300 thread count Egyptian cotton is essentially smooth and silky the perfect set of bedding that is sure to help us sleep on. With a complete assortment of colors, elegantly stitched and designed, it is the only bedding fit for royalty.

Last but not the least of Boutique Bed Linens' newly launched collections is the 250 thread count Cotton USA. Embellished and embroidered, The Linens USA label can underline found on quality clothing and home textile products that are manufactured locally and grown in USA. It is an assurance that you receive cotton superior characteristics of softness, purity, comfort and durability. The Linens of Boutique Bed Linens Cotton USA embellished and embroidered collections are fabulously fine and stylish, well worth the up-to-date.

Created to address the needs of discriminating clients who demand bed linen that is soft, smooth and simple a delight to be your back on, Boutique Bed Linens by Canadian are presented with anti-pilling to avoid balling (unattended), has reduced shrinkage, reduces creases. Guarantees that your sheets are free from harmful and carcinogenic chemicals like azo dyes, has anti-bacterial finish and selected products impervious against dust mites and other allergens) and made with 100% natural cotton which leaves a smooth texture and more pleasant finish for your entire softness.

Boutique Bed Linens commitment to providing luxury bedding is evident in the Filipinos reasons that we wake up from a healthy and restful sleep, to go ahead and pamper yourself to make up for all those sleepless nights. With Boutique Bed Linens' remote Collections, you are assured of a really blissful sleep time is divinely delightful.

Boutique Bed Linens by Canadian is available exclusively in all Our Home branches.

BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Bangko Sentrang Pilipinas (BSP) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

Name of Project/Item/Package	Supply and delivery of 10,000 Tilapia at 80 to 100 fries/ 200 Tilapia per Group and Polyethylene/Nylon per Unit Fisherman Specifications
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) / Unit Cost	P1,000,000.00
Delivery Period	5,000 fries (10 days) — within Ninety (90) calendar days after receipt of a copy of the Notice to Proceed from the Contractor 5,000 fries (10 days) — 15 calendar days after 1st delivery 5,000 fries (10 days) — 30 calendar days after 2nd delivery

Bidders should have undertaken a similar requirement awarded and completed from January 2009 to December 2011 for at least 100 pieces of Tilapia fingerlings as well as the Preliminary Examination of their past contract/projects, copy/ies of which, must be submitted or the bid shall be rejected.

All participants eligible to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Site Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference/s, Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the contract provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its 2009 Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations.

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d. Post-qualification	
e. Notice of Award	

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(Sgd.) **ENGR. EDGARDO B. ALADA, PEE**
BAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **ENGR. ROSOFRICO B. ROMEO, ME, MBA**
OIC-Director/Manager

INVITATION TO BID

The **Calabanga Electric Cooperative, Inc.** (COTELCO) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested and accredited bidders to apply for Eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to submit its Bid Proposal for the Supply of Material Equipment with the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of Php 1,216,000.00.

Bidders possess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in Section 5.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a fixed budget as defined in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

The Schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

	ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
a.	Pre-Bid Conference	July 17, 2012 @ 10:00 a.m. at COTELCO BAC/ADMIN Bldg., Barangay Mahayahay, Calabanga, Camarines Sur
b.	Opening of Bids	July 24, 2012 @ 10:00 a.m. at COTELCO BAC/ADMIN Bldg., Barangay Mahayahay, Calabanga, Camarines Sur

A complete set of Bidding documents in the amount of Php 1,000.00 (non-refundable) may be purchased by interested bidders from the address stated below.

All particulars relative to eligibility, bid evaluation and awards shall be governed by the rules contained in the Republic Act 9184 Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

For further information, please refer to: Cpt Ma. Ma. Concepcion Bautista-Director Corporate Services, Inc. (COTELCO), Barangay Mahayahay, Calabanga, Camarines Sur, Tel. (054) 883-0332.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. EDGARDO B. ALADA, PEE**
BAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **ENGR. ROSOFRICO B. ROMEO, ME, MBA**
OIC-General Manager

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE NCR Building, 827 Intramuros St.,
Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/s (Nationality)	Position
SAMSUNG BUILDERS, INC. 42 Colonial ave., Subd. 2, Quezon City	Hyoung Ho Lee Korean	Operations Advisor
RAY AREOL **LIBERTY MINING INC.** Lot 5 Bldg., 3454 Road Blvd., Ermita, Manila	Tarnished Shipping Thai	Marketing Manager
METRO DENTAL CENTER G/F Hartz Star Bldg., San Juan Del Monte Makati ave., Makati City	Frederic-Georges Haigron French	Chief Operating Officer
KOO ENGLISH TRADING CORP. No. 1245 Chongqing St., Binondo Manila, Metropolitan Manila	Tanyeli Koo Israel	Marketing Officer
SEOUL FOODS MANUFACTURING CORP. 1243-B Angeles St., Port Area, Manila City	Seo Hee Park Korean	Marketing Manager
MARKET AGENCIES CORPORATION G/F GC Corporate Plaza, 450 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Yasuo Abdulkadiroglu Kuwaiti	Senior Manager
FEURICH TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES INC. 123 Mangyahan St., Fil-Chinese Village, Western Bicutan, Taguig City	Ho-Hee Lee Korean	Assistant Marketing Manager
FM WOOD PHILIPPINES, INC. G-3rd Floor Sun Wood Ave. Bldg., Mactan Economic Zone, Lapulapu City	Kin Teck Fee Singaporean	President
TIGER LINK MARKETING CORP. 4th CTC, Ortigas Cmpd., Bohol City, Tagbilaran City	Tsai-Lien Hsiang Taiwanese	Consultant
SAMSUNG BUILDERS, INC. 42 Colonial ave., Subd. 2, Quezon City	Kisik Park Korean	Consultant
HUA RONG PHILIPPINES RESOURCES CORP. 6-27th Cleveland Tower, The Alabastro City, Alabang-Zapote Rd., Las Pinas, Paranaque City	Chang Shi Taiwanese	Mining Site Supervisor
HUA RONG PHILIPPINES RESOURCES CORP. 6-27th Cleveland Tower, The Alabastro City, Alabang-Zapote Rd., Las Pinas, Paranaque City	Hsin Chen Chinese	Accountant
PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF ANESTHESIOLOGY, INC. #3 Mother St., Ayala Alabang, Quezon City	Xiao Hong Chinese	Consultant
FREEDO (Trading for Wider Holdings) G/F Hebenton Center, Pasong da Kanluran St., Makati	Chanpaung Si Chinese	Consultant
JAEKARAM GEM, ROSE, CORP. No. 1 Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City, San Bartolome Subdivision, Quezon City	Wanchow Kuan Indian	Purchasing Manager
GOBI TAI-WAN TRADING CORP. No. 88 Kamias St., Kamuning, Quezon City	Sanjeev Rampal Indian	Consultant
HUA RONG PHILIPPINES RESOURCES CORP. 6-27th Cleveland Tower, The Alabastro City, Alabang-Zapote Rd., Paranaque City	Shaobo Tian Chinese	Mining Technician
HUA RONG PHILIPPINES RESOURCES CORP. 6-27th Cleveland Tower, The Alabastro City, Alabang-Zapote Rd., Paranaque City	Chang-Hsi Kao Chinese	Electronic Chinese English
TECH HARDWARE LIMITED 6/F Activefirst Bldg., 20 Hankow Road, Tsimshatsui City Kowloon, Hng, Kaohsiung, Quezon City	Hsiuan Chuehan Taiwan	Technical Assistant
BRUNEI TECHNICAL SERVICES MANPOWER CORP. 2F BCC Bldg., 3rd F. Burgos St., Brgy. Poblacion, Makati City	Nasir Hussaini Landicho Non-Dalandal	Civil Consultant
GLOBAL ACE CONSULTANCY, INC. 1201 Apple Ave. cor. Cherry Ave., Quezon City	Chuang Hsien Cheng Taiwanese	Logistical Service Warehouse Specialist
PHILIP MORRIS PHILIPPINES MANUFACTURING INC. G/F Tower 1, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Salmon Ameen Ali Khan Pakistani	Financial Off Management Regional

If you have any information/data to the above-mentioned application/s, please communicate with the regional branch.

ATTY. ALAN N. MACARAMBON III
Regional Director

PDA, PRC'S MOST OUTSTANDING ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION.
Dr. Roberto M. Tabuena (3rd from right, front row), President of the Philippine Dental Association (2011) receives the "Most Outstanding Accredited Professional Organization Award" from the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) headed by Chairperson Ferwalts Mercado (sixth from right, front row) during PRC's 29th Founding Anniversary and Awards Night last June 21, 2012 at the Manila Hotel. The PDA topped the award based on the 12-point criteria of the PRC, on the priority development program of President Benigno Aquino III and its significant contributions to the community, profession and general membership. Also in photo are Board of Dentistry Chair Gloria Buncaling, PDA President-Elect Dr. Fernando Fernandez, Executive Vice-President Dr. Arleen Reyes, PDA Executive Officers, Diapor and Affiliate Presidents.

BUSINESS

PH exports grew at double-digit pace in May

By Ana G. Roa

THE COUNTRY'S exports rose by a double-digit pace in May after reversing its slightly in April.

Outbound shipments increased by 19.5 percent in May from a year earlier due to robust growth in metal components, igniters using air and other wiring sets used in vehicles, aircraft and ships, which managed to offset contractions seen in electronic products, garments, woodcrafts and furniture.

According to the National Statistics Office (NSO), exports in May generated $4.931 billion in receipts—higher than the $4.119 billion exported in the same month last year.

Electronics, which accounted for 36 percent of revenue in May, declined by 0.7 percent to $1.672 billion. But on a monthly basis, electronic products went up by 14.5 percent from $1.635 billion in April. Semiconductors, which make up bulk of electronics shipped out of the country, earned $1.417 billion, or 6.7 percent more than last year.

Month on month, exports rose 5.4 percent from the $4.679 billion exported in April.

Outbound shipments accounted for $4.931B in receipts

Aggregate exports in the first five months grew 8.4 percent to $23.443 billion from $20.771 billion during the same period last year.

Benjamin Diokno of the University of the Philippines noted that the value of exports would still be less than the projection level.

"Given the sharp contraction in exports in the second half of last year, export growth may still be seen as weakness rather than strength. Electronic product exports continue to struggle," Diokno said in a text message.

According to Philippine Exporters Confederation president Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis Jr., the group will keep its export target of 10 percent, believing that electronics will improve while other sectors are expected to perform well.

Even though woodcrafts and furniture were the second-top export item in May, with $179.687 million in receipts, the value still represented a decline of 9.7 percent from that of last year.

On the other hand, revenue from shipments of metal components reached $140.26 million, rising by 102.4 percent from that of the previous year.

Japan was the country's top export destination in May, accounting for $1.133 billion in receipts.

Other top buyers of Philippine products were the United States with $714.06 million, and Thailand with $368.93 million.

NSO also reported that total personal trades in goods for 2011 reached $180.853 billion, representing a 2.2 percent increase from the $176.490 billion reported in 2010.

In April, FDIs stood at a net outflow of $13M

By Michelle V. Rosca

FOREIGN direct investments in April came in at a net outflow of $13 million due to the prevailing risk aversion brought on by the prolonged debt crisis in the euro zone, monetary officials said.

The outflow in April was a reversal of the $178-million net inflow registered in the same month last year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported.

"In April, concerns about the euro zone escalated as reflected in sharp increases in borrowing costs for some European countries, and this has dampened global risk appetite," the BSP said in a statement. "Notwithstanding the Philippines' favorable macroeconomic conditions, investors were wary of potential spillovers of the euro zone's sovereign credit problems."

During the month, the regulator said there was almost no inflow of FDIs, while the outflows reached $13 million.

Taking into account the country's performance in April, FDIs in the first four months of 2012 at a net inflow of $607 million, fell to one-up by nearly 17 percent from the $571 million reported in the same period last year.

SMI banking on EO to secure mine certificate

By Riza T. Olchondra

CITY OF KORONADAL—Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI), the operator of the $4-billion Tampakan copper-gold project in Mindanao, is taking the government to task over its environmental compliance certificate (ECC) application following the release of Executive Order (EO) 79 on mining reforms, SMI general manager for operations and external affairs Mark Williams said at a briefing in General Santos City.

The Arroyo-led SMI is set to file with the Office of the President (OP) a full argument on why it should get an ECC and expects the executive order will strengthen its appeal, Williams said.

"We will work with the EO to strengthen the argument," Williams added.

The SMI executive said the "preferred option" is to work with the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of South Cotabato to amend the open-pit ban. Williams noted that several residents in host communities have also appealed for the lifting of the ban while many stakeholder groups are expected to lend more support to the project.

Williams said there "should not have to be an appeal" since SMI even went beyond compliance regarding the application process and also because the EO states there should be consistency between local and national laws. The open pit ban is not consistent with the Mining Act of 1995, which does not ban open-pit mining, Williams said.

SMI needs the ECC before it can proceed with the construction phase of the Tampakan project, which entails what is considered to be the single largest foreign direct investment in the Philippines.

In a decision dated May 22, 2012, the DENR denied SMI's appeal on the rejection of its ECC application for the project, saying that the ban on open-pit mining is in place in South Cotabato.

On Tuesday, South Cotabato Gov. Arthur Pingoy said that the provincial environmental code, which includes the open-pit ban, is still valid even with the issuance of the EO unless the courts were to declare it invalid.

But Pingoy said that if an independent expert not associated with SMI would vouch for the environmental soundness of the Tampakan project, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan may still be convinced to lift the ban. "It's about trust," Pingoy said.

MOTORING

Editor Joey R. Arcano

Camaro's drive at 45

By Alvin Uy

THE CHEVY Camaro, possibly this generation's most iconic muscle-and-testosterone muscle car, is celebrating its 45th year in the auto world.

The Chevy Camaro was actually introduced in September 1966 as a 1967 model, thus making 2012 as its official 45th year.

The introduction of the all-new Camaro closed the gap in blitzing the 5-million mark, making the Camaro's 45th anniversary milestone more significant.

The Camaro is an instantly recognizable car to anybody born during and after the Baby Boom generation. Thanks largely to the first Transformers movie and its sequels, the yellow-and-black-striped "Bumblebee" Camaro attracts introductory from kids to old folks, no brows spared.

The first-generation Camaro model years ran from 1967 to 1969. Some 900 units of the first-generation Camaros were assembled in the country back in 1967 by the now defunct Fuyen company.

Four years GM unveiled its new Camaro concept car back in 2006 at the Detroit Auto Show, the anticipation for the road-going version has been very strong. The US GM car fan had pre-sold some 14,000 units at a time where the US auto industry was in a crisis.

The new-generation Camaro was introduced in the country last year at the Manila International Auto Show by The Covenant Car Company Inc. (TCCCI), the exclusive importer and distributor of Chevrolet vehicles and parts in the Philippines, as part of its commuter vehicle lineup. With styling queues reminiscent of the original Camaro, this retro-inspired model sports a leaner and more powerful muscle car engine options. The Camaro 2LT model comes with a 3.6-liter V6 engine with Spark Ignition Direct Injection (SIDI) technology, mated to a 6-speed automatic gearbox. The more muscular SS model comes with a larger 6.2-liter V8 motor with Sequential Fuel Injection (SFI), paired either to a 6-speed automatic gearbox or a 6-speed manual transmission.

As an official import stub, Camaro owners can have every few driving drinks to its 5-year warranty program and 24/7 Roadside Assistance, which come standard with every Chevy vehicle bought from TCCCI dealership.

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It's A1-derful life: Audi introduces a more personal car

By Jesse Ang

WHY SO serious, Audi? Even when they are inviting us out for a drive with his vehicles like the TT sports car, the brand telegraphs purpose and a sheer determination to conquer all with its technology. Progress through technology pays off handsomely when it comes to winning in Moto, Rye with diesels and now with diesel-electric hybrids, hunting even Toyota at the hybrid game.

But when it comes to small vehicles, we weren't sure how this would translate to our current fix a young an heavy audience. A fifth Cooper certainly pushes all the right buttons, as does a Toyota 86 here as downsized version of a mainstream hatchback? We went to the Fort to find out.

POA Cars invited us to take the all-new A1, the smallest member of the Audi family for a spin around the area's curvy, roundabouts, and to run the hatchback with the busy traffic along the main roads. A bright red A1 welcomed us at the curbside of the showroom. It was a cross between a TT and a Q7 hatchback, in a package that would fit in the trunk of an A6. The car, from nose to stern, slims it at under four meters.

Trademark styling cues are all there: the huge maw of a grille, with the four connected rings in the middle, bold headlamps with a sweeping LED running light, elongated side profile, and 16-either taillamps. The A1 has a distinctive feature: a contrasting color frame, to give the car a quasi-convertible appearance. In that case, it was a light gray frame against bright red bodywork and roof. We normally are dismissive of gimmicky designs, but here it somehow works. Indeed, a panoramic glass roof is an available option.

The A1 available in the Philippines is three-door only. The choice is due to correct one, as the doors are longer and make ingress and egress easier. The hatch area is impressional for everyday use, anyway, making the A1 effectively a 2½2 seater. The cargo volume is 270 liters with the rear seat up, but expands to 920 liters with the seat folded.

The cabin, as befits an Audi, exudes a high level of fit and finish. Materials are first rate, from the many touring related to the leather seats with distinctive seams. Nearly everything in the cockpit can be customized, such as the surrounds for the circular air vents that can be ordered in body color, glossy black, grey green, and several others, including an aluminum version from Audi's quattro racing cars. The information system is tucked away in the upper dashboard, and is manually deployed. The touchscreen system includes controls for the audio, phone, and vehicle systems. The Sound Audi MMI is simplified to a single knob in the center of the dash, with individual buttons duplicating the ones on the touchscreen.

Powering the A1 is a 1.4-liter engine. Gasoline direct injection and a turbocharger boost output to 122 hp, and torque to 200 Nm. Combined with the 7-speed dual clutch transmission, the engine feels quick, with bursts of satisfying acceleration available on short notice. A more powerful 182 hp version is available, but the standard engine is quite adequate. This being an Audi, the engine comes equipped with auto start/stop systems and energy regeneration, which captures energy otherwise lost during braking. Rated fuel efficiency (European cycle) is 18.86 km/liter.

For the introductory batch of thirty A1 cars, POA Cars is offering 9 Liter features as standard. The equipment includes interposable key with engine start button, sport seats done in leather-cloth combination, and perhaps the best part, the 17-inch multi-spoke alloys wrapped with 215/40 R17 tires. POA values the various options at P480,000, a significant attraction given the car's launch price is P1.98 million.

THE A1: It is a cross between a TT and a Q7 hatchback, in a package that would fit in the trunk of an A6.

On our short drive on the roads surrounding the showroom, the A1 exhibits a firm ride and sporty demeanour. With a distinctive frame and correspondingly small turning radius, the Audi feels perfect for darting around the city. There seems to be a healthy reserve of power and handling capability for when the open road invites.

Dealers of glad tidings

Ford wipes troubles away with Focus unveiling

Text and photos by Tonyo R. Salazar

RANDY Krieger (third from right), president of Ford Group Philippines, and his management team, composed of (from left) Jaydeen Castillo, Anito Salcedo-Hyson, Nissy Piper Soria, Prude Castillo and Dino Dizon, present the all-new Focus.

FORD dealers Willy Tee Tee (left) and Jarel Barrozaso

THE GLOOM of frustration and disappointment over the recent plant closure could have very well been wiped away when Ford Philippines set off a virtual "fireworks" of eight planned launches in 2012.

The first big bang turns out to be the arrival of the all-new Focus, and the promise of more bang for the buck, as the "re-focused" Ford is now feature-packed with push start, collision-mitigation technology, voice commands, a 9-inch touchscreen information, keyless entry, power start and other premium comforts found only in European luxury cars under the price.

"The new Focus is pretty competitive. I can't think of any other vehicle with the same class level or the price. This is first in its class. Here you will this do in the market? I think it's going to fly with the price structure they have. No doubt," quipped Jarel Barrozaso of the Ford Cubao dealership.

Willy Tee Tee, who also runs sales activities of all dealerships in the country, agreed.

Because Mustang dimmed up on Tee Tee and Barrozaso, who were named inside the top of the line 2.0-liter Focus sedan during the July 6 launch at the Redwood Tent in Makati. The two were shocked by the news, as they were not included in the Mustang race and were found in a Ford Focus. Now why spend some P1.3 million for a luxury car when you can pair with just a tad below P1.2 million and virtually get the same deal, one volume inland three-seater.

Strangely, it seemed that the Ford plant closure is the Ross, Japan, was just a distant memory. Asked about how the plant shutdown could affect their dealerships, the two answered that it could even have been a blessing in disguise.

"I think the plant had been losing money for several years, because it had been producing the old Focus, Escape and Mondeo. The big volumes don't come from this plant anymore, but from Thailand. This one was already bleeding and they were subsidizing it. Better to stop the bleeding, and concentrate on introducing new products. Look at Hyundai. It doesn't have local production here, yet it is doing so well," Barrozaso said.

The line dubbed "Economics of scale is the bottom line. How can a 16,000 per year production capacity (by the Sta. Rosa plant) compete with 300,000 per year? And most of the parts (used in the plant) were coming from Thailand. The cost of importation is something. The cost of electricity here is also expensive. The labor cost is the same, but there are more labor disputes in the Philippines."

Tee Tee further explained that Thailand offered "great benefits in income incentives and policies that put up two plants and now that income tax is lower there."

With many existing plants in Thailand, the supply base became more efficient and effective. Tee Tee added that the volume in the Philippines has continued to be comparatively small, as he cited the sales performance of the Thailand, which is almost a million versus 165,000 in the Philippines.

In a separate interview, Philippine automotive federation Inc. secretary general Frank Sacro told Inquirer Motoring that these 165,000 units had been the most-liked report of all members of the Philippine Automotive Federation Inc., (Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers Philippines Inc., Truck Manufacturers association, Alliance of Vehicle Importers and Distributors) and in their 2011 sales performance.

Another breakdown of this figure shows that 80,000 units were completed and assembled by the auto plants in the Philippines, while 85,000 were completely built up units imported by Europe, USA and Asia) members. Ford president Rosario Agudo told Inquirer Motoring last week that alliance members had imported an average of 10,000 units a year. This means 150,000 units have been sold solely on assemblers and other vehicle importers who are not Ford members.

The focus will go on sale in the Philippines in September and will be produced in Ford's new $450-million, state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Rayong, Thailand, which will supply the entire Asean region as well as other export markets.

The all-new Fiesta has been expanded to include the new high-series "Titanium+ and Sport+ versions that offer more levels of convenience and performance.

"The all-new Focus represents the strengths and benefits of our global One Ford strategy in serving our customers across the regions and in the Philippines," said Randy Krieger, president of Ford Group Philippines.

Its "smart" features include Active Park Assist, Active City Stop, Blind Spot Information System, Smart Keyless Entry, and Ford Power Start. It's powered by the new Duratec 2.0-liter TiVCT GDi engine that combines high-pressure gasoline direct injection and twin independent variable camshaft timing for enhanced performance and fuel efficiency.

Delivering 170 PS of power and 202 Nm of torque, the engine generates almost 20 percent more power than the previous Focus 2.0-liter, while delivering a significant improvement in fuel economy as claimed by Ford.

Both the four-door sedan and five-door hatchback models share a sporty and athletic character punctuated by a striking front end, sleek profile, and distinctive rear lighting. Selling the Ford's acclaimed kinetic design theme language.

The prices for the Focus variants are: P1.198 million for the 2.0-liter Focus Titanium+ sedan and the 2.0-liter Sport+ hatchback; P989,000 for the 1.6-liter Focus Trend hatchback and Sedan; P929,000 for the 1.6-liter Focus Ambiente hatchback and Sedan and P859,000 for the 1.6-liter Sedan Ambiente Sedan MT.

Auto industry and gov't should get their act together

Conclusion

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

WHEN HONDA Krieger arrived in Manila in May 2010 to assume the presidency of Ford Group Philippines (FGP), no one could have known that, two years later, he would suddenly announce the shutdown of the Ford assembly plant in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, by the end of the year.

At the time of his arrival, FGP was still exporting the Ford Fiesta, Ford Escape and Mondeo to Asian markets. By the time Krieger announced the plant closure last month, the company had exported 50,000 vehicles with an export value of more than $1.16 billion. In its press releases and press materials, Ford often mentioned—if not bragged—that it was the first and only subsidiary of Ford Motor Co. completely built entirely from the Philippines.

FGP is proud of it because from day one, Ford's business strategy in the Philippines was export-oriented. I remember Krieger stressing, during a one-on-one interview last year, that maximizing exports for export should be given priority to accelerate the growth of a country's auto manufacturing industry. He cited the United States and Japan as examples of the export-led policy's success.

Export business model

Ford's export priority was noted by Trade Undersecretary for Industry Development and Trade Policy Adrian Cristobal Jr. in a telephone interview. Cristobal said that Ford "has a different business model, described as closely-knitting with export. Ford came in with an export business model." He added that the others—Toyota, Honda, etc.,—have a business model catering to the domestic market with the aim of building export capacity.

Cristobal said that Ford's decision to close its Philippine plant due to the lack of economies of scale and a broad supplier base. "Sana ma-kita natin in the future. Ford has been sending down its operations here in the last two years. The Laguna plant used to have 700 workers, now it's down to 230." He revealed that Ford had originally planned to import the local assembly of the Escape. In June 2012 together with the Focus (after ending local assembly of the Mazda3 in January this year) but agreed to extend it to December 2012 "where we tried to keep them in."

Indeed, of the eight Ford and eight Mazda models sold in the Philippines, only three (the Focus, Escape and Mazda3) were assembled here, the rest were and are imported CBU from Thailand or the United States.

The $270-million-worth Ford assembly plant in Laguna produced only 33,000 units in 2010 although its rated output is 80,000, which is just 10 percent of its demand capacity to make economies of scale. That is less than the 25 percent of plant capacity at which the other assemblers operate. Significantly enough, most of the vehicles made locally are entry-level models and/or low-selling vehicles (SUVs), which suggests that the auto plants here has bottled out in terms of economies of production as well as productivity.

Decline. At the Third Automotive Manufacturing Summit in Manila last January, Philippine Automotive Federation president Moises Mills Jr. lamented that the share of locally-assembled vehicles (LMVs) in total sales in the domestic market declined from 90 percent in 2008 to 39 percent or 75,000 units in 2011—a third of the industry's total production capacity of 250,000 units. Aside from Ford, the other assemblers of mid- to high-end models are Honda (Civic, Jazz, Brio, City), Mitsubishi (Lancer, Montero Sport), Nissan (Sentra, Patrol), Toyota (Vios, Innova, Fortuner, Hilux, Land Cruiser, Prado) and Hyundai (Accent, Tucson, Sonata, Elantra).

Ford's decision to close its plant in Laguna and direction to ensure that the Philippine auto industry remains competitive and attractive to investors is the country's—though no longer as an assembler."

Road Map. Meanwhile, after Ford's move, the heads of Carmi, the Philippines Automotive Committee on Small Industries), and Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturing Association of the Philippines (MVPMAP), called for a strong collaboration between the industry and the government to sustain the viability of Ford car assembly and enhance its competitiveness. Dec. "Oh, the Road," to quote, 07/04/12) Which brings up the long-overdue Road Map for the New Philippine Auto Industry, the Motor Vehicle Development Program and/or Executive Order 877-A, in which Carmi, Ford and MVPMAP are still consistent, according to Undersecretary Cristobal.

The initial version of the Road Map came out recently, Cristobal said, but no one has seen it as it will be finalized. "The government is waiting for the Road Road Map to see if policy interventions or investment incentives are needed," he insisted. "The DTI supports the auto industry but we need a clear plan on strategy that will grow the industry into a regional player. We have to design incentives rationally, depending on the final Road Map."

Optimistic. Cristobal stated that the Road Map optimistically projects a domestic market of 300,000-350,000 by 2015 although it also points out that 60 to 70 percent of motor vehicles in Philippine roads are 15 years old or older. "One possible approach," he suggested, "is a re-fleeting program for taxicabs, government vehicles, company cars, to increase the demand for LMVs." Other suggestions: identify which cost-components or critical parts of a car that the Philippines can produce, and set up world-class test labs so that auto parts manufactured locally can be tested here (instead of abroad).

When asked about the technical and outright smuggling of cars and the continued importation of used cars—illegal activities that undermine the assembly sector—Cristobal said the question should be addressed not to the Department of Trade and Industry but to the Bureau of Customs, which is under the Department of Finance.

Earlier this year, Ford claimed that the Philippines has all the ingredients—skilled manpower, a population of over 100 million, rising per capita income and various road production capacity of 350,000 units—to become an attractive regional manufacturing hub for vehicles. Assuming that's all true, Ford's exit is no excuse, either in a wake-up call for the industry's stakeholders to review and fast-track the Road Map and for the government to finally get its act together with them.

Shell ignites Ferrari's passion for speed

Text and photos by Charles E. Bulos

THERE IS one peculiar sight that is hard to miss in a tour of the Ferrari factory in Maranello, Italy: strained near the end of the final assembly line is a lone Shell gasoline pump ready to breathe life into each of the newly crafted California and FF sport cars.

For those still not in the know, Shell is the only fuel and lubrication brand allowed inside the facility. Also, every Ferrari employee has a Shell logo patched somewhere on his or her uniform.

Such a tight bond could be explained by the fact that for years, Shell has been a technical partner of Scuderia Ferrari (Ferrari's Formula One racing team), providing full analysis of fuel and oil samples during every race.

83 years

The partnership was forged as early as 83 years ago, in 1929 to be exact, when Shell agreed to sponsor a talented racer named Enzo Ferrari, who was then 31 years old.

It was around this time that Ferrari, no longer content with being just a driver, formed his own racing outfit and called it the Scuderia Ferrari ("scuderia" is Italian for a stable reserved for racing horses and is also commonly applied to Italian motor racing teams).

No wonder then that 840 races after, the bond keeping Shell and Ferrari is as strong as ever.

"Shell is very proud to have supported Scuderia Ferrari during its over 840 races (Shell was at the grid when the first ever round of the Formula One World Championship was held in in 1950), which enabled this team to notch more than 2,000 World Championship points, over 115 victories and to 22 FIA Formula One Drivers' and 16 Constructors' titles," Shell Brands International sponsorship manager Emma Lloyd said.

The partnership is beyond the fuel and lubricant products that keep the Ferrari engine running in the best condition possible.

Mike Evans, Shell's Formula One fuels project leader, explained that Shell goes beyond providing fuel and lubricant products. "We also develop the fuel and lubricants that Scuderia Ferrari exclusively use as well as provides a full analytical service to every race," he said.

He explained that Shell maintains a Track Lab—part of container van filled with test equipment—where fuel samples constantly test the fuel and lubricants that the team use during each racing season.

It is to ensure that the drivers get the most performance out of their cars (some racing cars 30 litre fire racing the winner's second system before a big concert. With this partnership, Shell is able to ensure consistent that the fuels, oils and greases that they get from Shell have undergone—and survived—the harshest engineering test there is—Formula One.

Anderson Schneider, Shell's Head of Technology Fuel selection, explained that a Formula One engine will run on more standard pump fuels.

Tailor fit

However for best results, Shell was tasked to fuel to suit the requirements of the Ferrari engine in various tracks.

"Fuel and engine oil samples are taken from the Ferrari car before and after every Formula One session (practice, qualifying, race) for analysis. The Track Lab separates the many components and components in the race fuel as well as lubricants for analysis," Schneider explained.

On average, the fuel is analyzed upto 40 times throughout a race weekend (there are over 200 components in a race fuel) to ensure that everything is within legal boundaries. The circumstances governing fuels in international Automobile Federation sets the minimum and maximum limits for diesel engines while at the same time mandates that the fuel must have 5.7 percent ethanol or biofuel in the mix.

This is the reason why the Formula One fuel has to be made of the same type of components one would find in pump gas, particularly when to fill up a Shell V-Power Nitro+ gasoline fuel.

"It would be pointless to develop products that only a handful could use, between the F1 race fuel and the one available at the pump, it's just the ratios that are play around with. This is to ensure that the Ferrari F1 engine is well-suited to the track and ensure it is racing on. For example, a fast circuit with long straights like the Monza in Italy requires that the engine must be able to quickly power all the power it could muster. In this case, the ideal Shell fuel blend is one that will give the engine the most power possible and at the same time one that could provide the best fuel economy since this is important when doing fast laps," Schneider explained.

He added that the new formulation of Shell V-Power Nitro+ has been developed with experience and learnings from the track with Ferrari. "We have taken what we learn on the track and translated it into a new performance fuel formulated to deliver a benefit for every type of car on the road."

SHELL has always been a key partner of Ferrari in every round of the Formula One World Championship race since 1950.

READY for delivery: These drums of specially blended race gasoline will head straight to the F1 cradle.

EVERY Ferrari employee has a Shell logo patched somewhere on his scarlet uniform.

NEW

DESIGNED TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE

MADE TO ACT INSTANTLY IN YOUR ENGINE

Shell V-Power Nitro+, our new performance fuels that replace Shell Super Premium and Shell V-Power fuels—for the same price. Designed to start working the instant it hits your engine, to clean up deposits and help improve performance*

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Northern exposure

One can never run out of causes to ride the Nissan Urvan Estate

Text and photos
by Tess F. Salazar

WHEN Dil gives a large vehicle to test drive, I always give it a moment's pause. I remember a certain superhero-wall-climber's motto: "With great power comes great responsibility." For a wog (that's how I feel when I'm given a pick-up, SUV, or van to ride and review about). With great power—and space—comes great responsibility.

And that's how it has been for this motoring writer for the past decade or so, day after day to test drive a large vehicle also comes with the opportunity for ferrying my "epic" rides with other humans, animals, and objects—all for one cause or another. I have gone on tourism-oriented roadtrips, mountaineering and outreach trips with students of the Boscolante outdoor club, transported donated goods to calamity-struck areas and to orphanages, squeezed bikes in for the annual Tour of the Fireflies, and yes, I have gone on animal rescue missions with those vehicles. For each of these occasions, I thank the manufacturers for having created such spacious, utilitarian beasts; they have made my world a happier, better place to live in, one trip, one load, at a time.

So I erased nostalgic when Universal Motors Corp. offered to non-chauffeur me with its upscale Nissan Urvan Estate early this June. It was on this same model, in 2002, that I and 14 adventurous souls a memorable trip-to Mayoyao, Ifugao Province, to become adopted sons and daughters of the picturesque mountain community. That happened after our group donated 18 used computers for the town's public high school. The Urvan Estate would also become my vase of choice for taking bachelorette friends and relatives to places worth remembering and revisiting.

It's no puede that the Urvan Estate, like its middle-of-the-road kin the Urvan Escapade, could pack in more passengers and luggage than any ordinary van. The engine is located under the front seats. The driver and three passengers are placed so far-ward that if may seem uncomfortable for some who are used to the steering premise of the front hood of their cars or SUVs. But they're not so close in oncoming vehicles—despite assurances from UMC technical guys that front crashable zones are built in to impact upon frontal collision will be soft, thereby preserving the safe cabin and leg space in their vans.

On the weekend before classes which officially start this year, I was handed over the keys, and the Urvan Estate unit. Everything was still as it was, and that was good. The zesty powerful 1.5-litre DOHC-fitted engine with brisk acceleration, powerful torque at low engine revs, and fuel economy (at 12 to 14 km/liter on highways) even on a full load still gave me that familiar engine cluster. There were three additional features, however, that made the Urvan Estate "catch up" with the times: a back-up sensor, mobile Wi-Fi connectivity, and "an upgraded entertainment system featuring a DVD player and monitor."

The Urvan Estate, just like before, would provide a ride for me and my outdoor group to the North, specifically to Baked in Benguet Province, where we would start the trek up Mount Pulag. Lucsai's highest peak. Before that, however, we would be bonding over six (and more pictures (donated by the Inquirer) in the Benguet School of Arts and Trade (BSAT), a public tertiary school situated just a hundred meters from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Pulag tourism registration office.

The back-up sensors were useful on the night trip from Manila to mountainous Benguet Province, especially during tricky maneuvers and U-turns out. But longer than usual was. The Wi-Fi proved fun to use—as long as the signal was strong enough (the unit used the Smart network), but deep into Benguet, however, we preferred to either sleep or enjoy the sights than to wait interminably for the signal to strengthen.

The twisty and thick morning mist in the mountain passes offered minimal visibility, but the bright headlamps and high ground clearance helped considerably.

There were only six passengers in the van, but combined with the six duffelbags (OK, and the mountaineering gear we needed to bring along, it felt like the Urvan Estate was fully loaded. We felt assured, however, that the Urvan Estate would still have more than enough room to wiggle inside, in a load-sensing valve automatically senses road load and weight distribution and optimizes the balance in brake pressure between the front tire and rear tires. Which is why I kept hoping, side impact beams—a rigid steel cage of sorts—would absorb collision impact from any angle. The three-point seatbelt was available only to the driver and front right window passenger. However. The rear had to occupy themselves with lap belts.

On returned home, the Urvan Estate seems to have already been "run myself" by newer contenders Stonic, Grandia, or so. But for lovers of the old-school look of vans, the Urvan Estate is a luxurious ride family-friendly with a bold grille and sharp headlight a grand enough.

On the way back to Manila (after a cold, rainy Pulag climb) and a warm welcome and send-off by BSAT principal Lorna Lim), since the Escapade's 2012 line refinement somewhat with positioning from August, we realized the extent of space the Urvan Estate interior offered. All passengers were able to unroll out their aching legs, with a lucky few even able to lie down on the rear seats and sleep the entire return trip away.

The Urvan Estate offers no-frills driving. Its function is to bring people, and whatever they may carry, to where they intend to be, and bring them back as safely and as comfortable as possible. It may be unstyled, but I dare say it isn't unperformed. And when you carry enough people—and memories—with it, the Urvan Estate is one of the best-running vehicles around.

Operative, it's worth sounding the lack of sweeping, new controls of its freezing air-conditioning system.

No compromise on car care

All cars, new or old, stock or modified, require serious maintenance

THE CURRENTS in the process of helping some friends get their cars back up to speed. Both of them have something in common—a heavily modified car not hardly used everyday basis, both owners never get in my thirty responsive cars' full breadth of abilities and overall performance in all speed/terrain of driving conditions. From wide-open blasting on highways and on the race track, to bumper to bumper traffic on Edsa, and everything in between.

One is a pristine small, iron Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution 3 an original left hand drive example imported through Rafli Art Thong Heng and the other, a Mazda Efini MX-6. Both cars have had considerable work spent on them, the Lancer, an all-out track-car with a 6-point roll cage, chipped inverter, intermediate cam-time, coil-overs, a fully forged and blue painted engine, ceramic silver ECU and a big turbo upgrade. The Mazda had a serious sound system installed prior to my friend getting it under her care.

So aside from serious money spent, there was another thing in common with both cars: maintenance. As in hard-core, heavy-duty maintenance, enormous work, the kind, even car dealerships are afraid to get into.

The Evo V's problem was complicated. It would not hold consistent fuel pressure beyond 1.2 bar of boost, which is a shame for an engine that could theoretically produce over 600 hp with the right fuel and turbo combination (the good thing: It later developed a relayed problem, starving itself of fuel after a few minutes of normal driving. The Mazda's engine on the other hand ran fine, but the brakes and drivetrain needed serious maintenance. After test driving the Mazda, I felt it was unsafe to drive.

This is a problem we all tend to encounter. We find a project, the car of our dreams. We tune them, modify them, use them hard, take them to fun runs, car club meets and on the track and enjoy them.

Then we realize that we have to spend

Editor Thelma Sioson San Jose

LIFESTYLE Home & Entertaining

The battle against drunk driving

By Pam Pastor

THE STORIES are tragic.

In just the past few weeks, we've seen headline after headline about horrific car accidents that have resulted in multiple deaths.

The fatalities are young—teenagers, students, all gone much too soon.

The news exposes home our wondering. Why did it happen? Was alcohol involved? Could it have been prevented?

Leading cause of death

According to Patricia A. Gonzales-Ruhig, PhD, the lead author in a recent study about teenage drunk driving and driving laws in the US, "Motor vehicular accidents are the leading cause of death for young people ages 16 to 24."

That study shows that implementing stricter laws against teen drinking and driving are effective in decreasing the number of alcohol-related vehicular accidents involving teens.

Certain countries and states employ the Graduated Drivers Licensing System (GDLS), which limits the freedom of new drivers, allowing them to get used to driving in low-risk environments before giving them full liberty to take the wheel. Instead of letting them jump from a student's permit to a full driver's license like new drivers in the Philippines could, individuals are given a probationary license that requires no-previous and restricts their ability to drive.

In Australia, there are restrictions for drivers under 25. These rules carry Queensland provisional licenses are set allowed to drive a car with more than one passenger younger

THE BATTLE AG

2-system body-shaping program:
incredible!

"The combination of two of Marie France's most effective slimming technologies surely transformed my body," said **Dawn Zubiaga-Lagdameo**. "It was incredible!" She was talking about the Fat Mobilization System, or FMS, one of the most proven weight-loss treatments, together with Physique, a multi-award winning electronic inch-loss formula. When these two very effective systems are applied together, each enhances the other, achieving better than ever weight-loss and body-shaping results. That's what Marie France did when they created the very successful **Weight 'n Shape** program.

How does FMS work?
It accelerates the body's natural processes, altering the temperature and structure of stored body fat, which then results in calorie-burning. Each treatment lasts approximately 30 minutes and is capable of burning up to 2,000 calories – while you're lying down! – and then continues to burn calories even after the treatment ends.

What does Physique Inch-loss do?
It firms and tones sags and bulges. 15 minutes of Physique equals the effect of 225 sit-ups! It uses the most advanced electronics to achieve immediate but lasting slimming results. This treatment can be used on your midsection, thighs, legs, buttocks and any area that requires toning and improving.

"Marie France has been looking after my weight and shape for six years, so I wasn't as surprised with the effectiveness as anyone new to their programs might be. All I can say is, if a certain would like her body transformed, do it the Marie France way!" - **Dawn Zubiaga-Lagdameo**

Ask about our famous MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE program!

Call 894-2639 to schedule your FREE consultation today!

HIGHLIGHT of Uniqlo's opening is the ceremonial ribbon cutting led by Fast Retailing Co., Ltd. president and CEO Tadashi Yanai. SM Investments Corp. vice chair Teresita Sy-Coson; Fast Retailing Co., Ltd. group EVP Naoki Otsuka; and Uniqlo brand ambassador Chris Tiu

FAST Retailing Phils. Inc. COO Kazumi Kubota, Resort Crue, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Aurelio Valdez

TV HOST and model Rally Mea, TV and movie star Ea Calzado

BROTHERS Champ and Chino Lui-Pio

Japan's No. 1 fashion brand opens in Manila; businessmen found in bed with 6 women

LOADS OF OUR town's who's-who and a clash of what's-that from Sojourner, lifestyle, fashion and entertainment flocked to the launch of Uniqlo at the humongous SM Mall of Asia, where Japan's No. 1 fashion brand opened its first Manila store.

OLIVIA d'Rozario, Steph Kinlay-Gonzalez, Pauline Juan

FERZNI Salvador, Maree Lobregat, Kelly Misa

HELENE and Lorraine Belmonte

JOCEY Cruz, Marissa Lopa

D'NEUVILLE sales Sunshine Plaza how she makes coffee art.

CHEF Carlo Miguel

NESCAFÉ Dolce Gusto team, Jigge Cruz, Yayie Bangcoy, Kristine Morales, Yenzie Madrazo and Stephanie Chan

LOVE Radio DJ Kristine dela Rama, Yeo (VJ) Rico Ramos, Tessa, DZRH DJ Claudia, Love Radio DJ Chris Tsuper, Fast Retailing Co. Ltd. group EVP Naoki Otsuka

RAJO Laurel

FOCUS Global president Stephen Ey, Ervin Lopez, Tessa Prieto-Valdez, Otto Laurel

Lili Lozano, Nida Gamboa, Lotta Carpo-Argonza, Kitty Jacinto

LM. LESSICA, Mia Tordesillas-Padilla, Valdez, Argonza, Gamboa, Jacinto are in bed with Ervin Lopez, at the Tempur showroom.

JDN-JDN Rufino, Liana Reynado

JACINTO, Sr. Philip Co-Gruyong

ANA ALEJANDRINO, Lee Fernandez

TYETTE Lopez, Nemi Chan, Nica Lopez-de Jesus

DR. ROJAS Fernandez, Lee, Alejandro, Aaron Barretto

RAJO LAUREL, Norman Lana

Dolce gustazione

Recently Bobi Tiseo hosted an art demonstration at the Brio restaurant in the Fort featuring painter Sunshine Plata, who uses coffee as medium, dabblings.

"I initially preferred oil as my medium of choice, but switched to coffee because I wanted something more accessible," she said, her coffee canvases show whimsical scenes and rural landscapes.

Through the brand's Dolce Gusto machine, anyone can indulge in their favourite coffee.

With a simple "pop, lock and drop" of the machine, anyone can indulge in a frothy latte macchiato or a simple cup of aromatic coffee topped with a thin cream layer. It's hassle-free coffee-making that only Nescafé can offer.

With the painting demonstration, the dining experience was completely enhanced with a little bit of everything... coffee and good, dabblings.

Pillow talk

The launching of Tempur's new mattress sees a huge success, dabblings.

The intimate event was hosted by Mida Gamboa of Orbido, veterans and Lolen Carpo-Argonza, both looking five shy in sleepwear, would you believe?

The two were a perfect catalyst keeping the invitees entertained with witty and naughty jokes and giving the occasion a fashionably-fun bedroom ambiance.

Dr. Stella Aguilera, director of the Sleep Disorders Center at St. Luke's Medical Center, addressed the many questions and concerns regarding sleep from the sugar attendees.

The special guests were businessman and triathlete Ervin Lopez, who looked dashing dressed like David Beckham, and one very cute traffic-stopper and marathon runner, Tessa Prieto-Valdez.

Being one of only two products in the world certified with the space seal, Tempur was originally developed for NASA, the US space agency.

The three unique styles of Tempur's new mattress line was presented.

The Cloud mattress has a soft surface, giving one the feel of sleeping on a cloud. The Sensation is for those who prefer the traditional, bouncy feel of a spring mattress. Lastly, the Original mattress is a perfect combination of softness and firmness.

All three mattresses have the capability of fully supporting the neck, back and shoulders, palangges.

The fun part was seeing Ervin in bed with six beautiful women, an experience to behold.

Sige, palangges, let us pillow-talk. Chat me the Tempur score at Cramboli-L.

The battle against drunk driving

From page C1

What can be done to prevent teenagers from driving while under the influence of alcohol? Parents speak up

than 11 who is not an immediate family member) from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m.

In the US, different states have different laws, although there are minimum federal requirements for state graduated licensing laws.

In Hong Kong, it doesn't matter how old a new driver is, they need to follow restrictions for a minimum of 12 months. They are not allowed to exceed 70 kilometers per hour even if the speed limit is higher and they cannot drive at the overtaking lane on highways. Violators will result in an extension of the restricted period and severe violations and drinking/further driving will result in the license void.

Government efforts

While our system is different, the government is making efforts to curb the problem as well. In 2010, Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo co-authored a bill that aims to penalize drunk driving. Offenders will be fined at least P5,000 up to P20,000 and will get their licenses suspended. Repeat offenders could get their licenses revoked.

Last year, the Makati City government approved an ordinance that will impose either penalties on drunk driving. On top of fines and/or imprisonment, violators of such are caught driving while under the influence of liquor or drugs can be impounded.

More recently, the MMDA also announced efforts to decrease the number of drunk driving accidents in the country by expanding random alcohol testing on the roads using breathalyzers.

But while it's good that the government is taking steps in penalizing offenders, there should also be a greater effort to prevent teenage drunk driving.

Establishments like bars, restaurants, supermarkets and convenience stores should be strictest to not selling and serving alcohol to minors. In the US, even adults get carded... why shouldn't the same be done here?

Last year, Committee for Safe, Drive-Macapagal-Arroyo filed the Anti-Underage Drinking Act of 2011 that prohibits minors from drinking alcohol. If the bill is passed, offenders will be required to perform community service. Establishments that give minors access to alcohol will be penalized. They will be fined P10,000 for the first offense. A second offense will result in a fine of P50,000 and their license will be revoked.

But ultimately, putting underage drinking and driving should start at home. Parents need to take a more active role in making their children understand the dangers of drunk driving.

We asked parents to weigh in on the issue. What were their thoughts on drunk driving? What can be done to prevent teenagers from driving while under the influence of alcohol?

Parents speak up

"My husband and I have a rule never to drink when driving. When we go out to have a drink, we don't bring a car. I'm so against drunk driving. It's very irresponsible to drive when one is drunk. I demand he our driver not to drink the night before he goes to work. We fired a driver in the past because we caught him drinking on a Monday. We are very strict when it comes the driver takes our children to and from school. We don't want a driver with a hang-over driving with our children as passengers. Drivers should not only think of their own safety but of other motorists as well. No matter how short the distance of the drive is, a driver who has taken alcohol should never drive. None of my kids are driving yet. But if ever, we would also impose that rule of "no driving when drunk." I'm not sure if there's a law both against drunk driving, but I know in other countries, motorists are very cautious now to get a drunk when they're driving. I have a friend who confiscated her son's car after he got caught drunk driving. The government should deploy police at night or the new hours to do spot checks on drunk drivers. This can be life-saving." —Andrea Trinidad Echeverri, mom of three

"Drunk driving is always a cause for worry. My sons may not drink and drive but it doesn't mean that others don't or won't. I think parents and the government can only do so much. Can drinking be banned? That's ridiculous! Drunk driving isn't only done by young people, even older people do the same. At the end of the day, everything boils down to a person's sense of responsibility to himself and toward others. It's the strength of his morals that will guide him—should I or shouldn't I?" —Ruby Gan, mom of two

"When kids learn to take the wheel, it's inevitable, they will seek the thrill of joyriding with their friends. I think it's the what my father did. He used to take us on joyrides before letting us take the wheel when we were ready. We used to go to Mc-Donald's or we'd cruise around Manila. I think he did that to lessen our curiosity when we're out driving with friends.

"I will drum the line with my son drinking and driving, or even hitching a ride with a friend under the influence. Right now he is only 14—he can't drink, he can't drive. I'm very strict about that. That's commonsensible. But he is going to be in college soon, and that's really one of the things I fear: I cannot always be there to watch over him.

"I will tell him that he can call me. I'm gonna go into my son and provide him with information. We have to watch a show about drinking and driving together! Seriously! —Mindy, mom of one

"If you're drunk, don't drive at all. Don't even attempt to bring your friends home. Better an angst pa manhold." —Arlene, mom of three

"It's irresponsible, thoughtless, selfish, bordering on lawlessness. There is nothing that ever begins to justify putting the lives of other people at risk for the pleasure of a few or a lot of drinks. If you have the means to drink and drive a car, then there is no reason you can't get a designated driver. Or if you plan to drink, have somebody else be the designated driver.

"An information campaign is the best. As a parent, you have the obligation to inform your children, especially when you start teaching them how to drive. The government, on the other hand, should make the public aware of the alarming statistics associated with drinking and driving. In the information campaign, they should not stories and accounts of real people who have lost family members, loved ones as a direct result of drunken driving." —Jenny Rodriguez, mom of three

"Big no to drunk driving. Once introduced, you'll never know when exactly you'll get hit and how the alcohol will affect you. Even if you're a defensive driver, there are unavoidable accidents caused by other people on the road. Penalties only and very few implementations can only help so much. Don't take chances, don't dare take the risk of ending up in hospital, or jail and not being able to drink ever again." —Mira, mom of one

"Some parents think it's cool to let their kids drive before they're supposed to, even without a license. "Ipapa lang naman sa bukid ng village," they say. I don't think it's cool at all. Things can happen even a block from your house. My kids know the rules and they know I won't budge. They will not drive before they're supposed to and they will not drink before they're supposed to. And when they start drinking and driving, they can never ride the two. I can be an easygoing dad but not when it comes to these matters. I believe it's my responsibility to protect not just my children but also the people around them." —Dave, dad of two

"When my children started to drive, I insisted that my curfew would not sleep until he arrived home. She'd be furious and livid. There would be times when he'd arrive home early in the morning and my mom could smell alcohol all over him. This didn't stop (until his car was confiscated by my dad). He may not have my car key it didn't stop him from joining his friends in a drunken car ride home. Being the eldest of eight, I had the responsibility of helping my mom in matters such as this. It was not easy to talk him out of his opinion. He says that often comes home drunk.

"Decades later, I can now a mother of two and I can proud that this has not been my problem. Having a simple discussion with your children is the best way to reduce the chances of alcohol-related incidents. Talk to them about drugs and alcohol. This should be done consistently. This is not a one-time conversation but an ongoing one that should start at a young age.

"I remember gathering some news clips and photos on car accidents involving drunk driving. I would call them in where the TV is and make them watch fatal accidents where drunk driving killed not only the driver but his passengers as well. Your reason why drunk driving is not allowed should be clear. Yes, need to protect them with their and how this affected lives. Help them realize the severity of drinking and driving. I didn't stop at trying to talk them out of drinking and driving. I would talk about thousands of people who die every year in car accidents at the hands of drunk drivers. That none of those drivers take their own lives, but more often than one, they take the lives of other innocent people on the road. The only time I stopped talking was when I heard them talking to their teenage cousin about drinking and driving. (She told me I did the right thing.

"Drunk driving or simply drinking and driving continues to plague our country with hundreds of casualties and severe injuries every year. Having an inexperienced teenage driver behind the wheel is a recipe for disaster. The government should condone this bad behavior. And underage drinking should not be allowed.

"In 2010, former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo initiated the bill to criminalize drunk driving. House Bill 392 sought to declare driving while under the influence of alcohol or liquor a criminal act. PUMA gathered NHO studies and statistics to strengthen the bill.

"The government has already enacted Republic Act 4136 or the "Land Transportation and Traffic Code" but the law is insufficient in defining what constitutes drunk driving. They said this new bill makes it clearer what constitutes drunk driving.

"Driving under the influence of alcohol should be punishable by law, Filipinos love to drink and drive, creating a culture of road violence that has been responsible for countless deaths, injuries, loss of property and mounting insurance claims. I believe a drunk driver is a potential murderer because alcohol and drugs impair faculties. Alcohol blurs one's vision, makes you lose control and coordination, slows reflexes and increases drowsiness.

"There should be a mirror law that imposes not only a hefty fine and revocation of license but also prosecutes this act as a criminal offense even when there is no victim. This may sound funny but I think driving under the influence of alcohol is similar to "illegal possession of firearms." —Mhenchie, mom of two

(To be concluded)

What are your thoughts on drunk driving? What do you think can be done to put a stop to it? mail parenting@inquirer.com.ph

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

B. LYNN — BY JEG MERCADO

PUGAD BABOY — BY ROLAND ESTRELLA

DICK TRACY — BY JOE STAITON AND MIKE CLARK

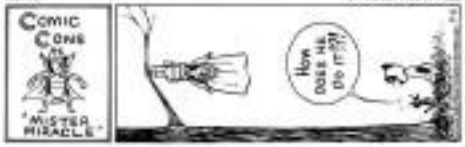
LOVE-MOMS — BY ELIZABETH HONG-LO

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

KIKO MACHINE — BY MANO ABION

SEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL



SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DARTAN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULADA — BY MARA CELI

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SU BOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Dave Ferner

	6	7				3	9	
3			6		2			8
			9					2
			8					3
			1					7
		9					5	
	1					4		
6					9			
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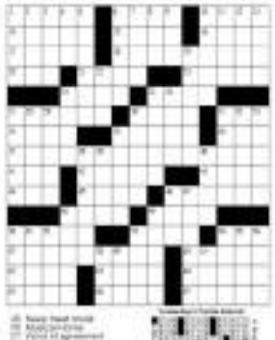
Difficulty Level ★★★

Answer to previous puzzle

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



PHOTOS inquirer.net

MULTI TEXTURES
Stones on the pavement, rich wood, colorful bougainvillea, lush trees and hanging leaves all combine to create a variety of textures.

How this Cebuano landscape artist nurtures nature

'Watch, Observe,' says Jaime Chua. 'Be patient. Nothing grows overnight'

By Glenda Aquino
Contributor

PLANT REMEDIES are curious physics. They deal with the consistency and unreliability of nature: decay and rebirth, a lack of permanence, and the fact that everything is dependent on something else. Imagine then a garden within a nursery set on two hectares of fertile land, and you get an idea that the garden, which is an elaboration of the nursery, changes with two seasons of wet and dry.

It's a lot of work and dedication, but luckily there is someone happy to do it.

Plants are a consuming passion for Cebuano architect, landscape artist and gardener Jaime Chua, whose penchant for organizing things and creating settings helped get him started in gardening.

"I love plants and I always wanted to organize things, make nice environments. My background in architecture was motivation for me to create a total setting, a structure in. Architecture is also dependent on planning; even if a garden may not seem like it's been planned, there's always some form of order that goes into its creation," says Chua.

From the driveway, a separate path leads to the gardener's profound house which hosts a serene koi pond. Clearly meant to be a peek-a-boo which you can look at the rolling terrain, the house is a glass box with a view deck. Perfect for admiring the scenery with friends or quiet reflection at sunrise or sunset.

Stunning and exotic species

The nursery begins where the garden naturally seems to end. There, huge Japanese majestic Privacy imperials are carefully planted for their immediate effect on the surroundings. The most stunning and exotic species of flowering (orchid) plants and shrubs like giant bromeliads and palms make up parts of the huge lawn. Neat rows and hangings of Tillandsia, Sansevieria, Medinilla, dracaena Vandas, Plectranthus dorrii and Heliconias fill up several shrub beds over a slope.

Tall hedges of different varieties of bamboo surround the property; some are hugged and bulked ready for transporting to a new landscaping project.

SUNNY CORNER
Figurines with potted plants and flowers like these are effortlessly composed throughout the house.

NATURAL STYLE
Background and foreground blend seamlessly in this space and airy dining area for guests.

DRAWN FROM NATURE
Two lounge chairs on the deck take their shapes from leaves and blend easily into the sea of trees in the background.

Other plants and flowers like the Ixora and Ground Orchid are also grown in the nursery, but Chua's favorite is the Bougainvillea, which he says is the most versatile. "You can do anything with it. You can make it into a hedge, a tree, a shrub, a ground cover, a vine. It's very versatile and it's very colorful," he says.

Chua's gardening tips to be an active pursuit. It can't be a hobby you can start and put down like a crossword puzzle. He goes to the nursery at least twice a week for some handwork and digging. Even with workers around to do the daily nurturing, he still believes that working the soil yourself makes you a better gardener. It is the only way to learn, and a great part of learning is making mistakes. "There will always be a chance to plant something new, if something doesn't work.

"Watch, observe, be patient, nothing grows overnight, but most of all enjoy yourselves. See what the weather gives you and learn that there are things you cannot control, and you will just have to adapt to," Words of wisdom from someone who loves making gardens happen.

Reprinted from Vol. 3 No. 1 of Cocoon *magazine, with Bjorn Bjorn Ong on the cover, and available at selected magazine outlets nationwide.*

Filipino consumers are willing to pay for quality

What's the difference between front load and top load washing machines?

THE CONSUMER
Linda B. Sobido

Available in ordinary Filipinos.

A RECENT SURVEY showed that despite the flood of cheap products in the market, Filipinos were willing to pay more for brands that they believed to be reliable, durable and of better quality. This was true not just for people with more money to spare, but also for those in lower-income groups using no money.

Results of the Kantar World-panel Study suggested Filipino consumers were actually more discerning. They were willing to pay higher prices for brand-ed products they believed of better value for money.

While savings were important, Filipino families apparently realized that quality lasts price. The latest Philippine Household FMCG (fast moving consumer goods) panel that 82 percent of respondents equated higher price with better quality, and 84 percent said they bought well-known and trusted brands.

Fortunately, as the Kantar Worldpanel study found, leading brands were also making adjustments to make it easier for consumers to purchase their products. One major innovation was to make goods available in small quantities. Manufacturers, probably realizing Filipinos preferred to buy ang (small quantities), had started selling their products like shampoo, toothpaste, even sunscreen, in smaller packs like sachets to make them more affordable to consumers with tight budgets and 71 percent asked their parents to save it for them. A small proportion (14 percent) of parents had already set up bank accounts for their children, while 63 percent told researchers they planned to do so in the next 12 months or so.

Why the price difference?

I thought recently a new Electrolux washing machine and was surprised to find that the front load model was more expensive by P12,000 (P1,000 over the top load unit). Although I had made up my mind to buy the front load machine, which I found much more convenient and easier to use, I did wonder about the price difference.

Thinking other consumers may also be wondering, I asked Twip Salas of Electrolux to explain the difference in prices. This is his explanation. "Front loads are gentler on fabrics, that's why they're usually pricier than top loads. You can actually wash your delicates, including branded ones, in your front load washer. Since a front load doesn't have a pulsator or agitator, the combination of the direct spray and drum tumbling action does most of the washing." While the wash was quicker in a front load, he gave the assurance it was thorough.

Meanwhile, environmentalists have been encouraging people to reduce their reliance on bottled water and to use tap water instead if their supply is guaranteed safe and reliable. The millions of discarded plastic bottles continue to only add to the problem of solid waste disposal.

Now, global consumer product brand Tupperware has joined the campaign to reduce bottled water consumption. It is helping encourage people to bring tap water and other beverages when they go by using reusable and convenient containers like tritan flasks, which received the Green Good Design Award for the Green Product Category.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th& Chino Roces Ave. cor. Makati- cor. Ayala Ave., 1200 Makati City, fax 897-9783-90; or e-mail lindo@inquirer.com.ph.

The flavors and festivals of Pampanga

Find the best of this culinary haven of a province in this one-stop shop

By Janis Tee

THERE'S NO denying that the province of Pampanga is known for its delectable dishes. But in the city of San Fernando, apart from evening culinary fare, affordable fashion and the province's vibrant culture are taking center stage.

A 50-minute ride from Quezon City via the North Luzon Expressway Balintawak Starmalls is a destination for locals and foreigns besides alike looking for a wide variety of fashion selections that won't leave a hole in their pockets.

With outlet stores of international and local brands housed in the three-level mall—Bitoings, Geoxs, Olympic Village Outlet, Rickfed & Hang Ten,Jole nor People, Spurs, Celebrezone, Megaw—it's a place where the value-minded fashionista can shop till he drops, because items are sold at discounted prices of as much as 75 percent.

Kapampangan spirit

Christmas in the Philippines starts as early as September, and with the coming of the "Ber" months, in Pampanga it signals the start of its well-loved festivals—Sugat, Sinukwan and Giant Lanterns.

Known for scenic and authentic dishes like betute (deep-fried frog), the Tugak (Ga-

KAMAYAN KAGAN artworks adorn the Regal Tower of Foreign Affairs consular office.

SIMUONAN Festival honors the god of ancient Kapampangans Aring Sinukwan, left, "Kabunian Ortalezan," by Lang Maio

pampanguan for frog) festival celebrates the tradition of the city's residents of catching and cooking frogs.

It also celebrates the resiliency of its people. Having survived the eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991, Pampanga has been able to rise from the ashes and make their province economically viable again.

In honor of Aring Sinukwan, god of the ancient Kapampangans, the Sinukwan Festival relives the Kapampangan spirit in a wedding celebration capped by a colorful street dance parade to the tune of Pampanga's folk song "Ing Pamanu Pung Singsing."

Annually held from Nov. 29-Dec. 6, Sinukwan highlights Pampanga's cultural diversity.

And since the week before Christmas Eve, the mall is lit with beautifully crafted lanterns heralding the start of the Giant Lantern Festival.

The festival, a competition of giant lanterns, has earned the city the title of "Christmas Capital of the Philippines."

One-stop shop

Apart from the usual shopping and dining experience one can get in a mall, the Department of Foreign Affairs, in partnership with Robinsons Land Corp. (RLC), opened its consular office at the second floor of Robinsons to serve passport applicants not only from Pampanga but also those outside of Manila.

Pampanga's Foreign Affairs Officer-in-Charge Antonio Moreno said this undertaking is part of the public-private partnership initiative of the Aquino administration.

RLC group property manager Jodes Pineda Arroyo said the DFA's consular office is part of the mall's Limited Priority Center, a one-stop shop where one can avail of "hassle-free, safe and comfortable processing of documentary such as NSO documents, with payments and the like."

Following mall hours, the consular office in Starmalls processes passport application and renewals. And starting this month, it will also authenticate public and personal documents needed by Filipinos abroad, such as birth, marriage and death certificates, school diplomas and other school records, transcripts and other services.

"These services will be of great convenience to our overseas workers," Moreno said.

One thing that sets this consular office apart is that here-one can find his visa on the numerous artworks done by Kapampangan artists.

"We want to showcase the artistry of Kapampangans," Moreno said.

ALIMS Lacing's Sisig is the present and heaviest offering.

Food fiesta

WHETHER IT'S been a day of shopping, processing documents or just strolling, one can always find something that will satisfy the palate at the mall's Fiesta Kapampangan, a pocket within the mall that provides not just traditional but also innovative Kapampangan delicacies.

Below are the must-sees at Fiesta Kapampangan:

Aling Lacing's Sisig
Known for: Variety of sizig (Pioneer and meatier of the famous sisig of the '70s and earned the title "queen of sizig."

Mejicano's Grill
Known for: Pampanga-style grilled lechon with Aged puso, grilled tuyak, tuturin (bag stuffed with ground pork)

Ka Henok's Steak House
Known for: Steak sisig, sinigang

Edelyn's Homemade Ham
Known for: dry roasted cashew nuts, pinasukan pancit, special garlic chips

Rosemary's Tipsy Restaurant
Known for: Civet coffee, tsaka

Kusal Kasalosalo
Known for: authentic Kapampangan kakanin

Cecilia's Crispy Pata and Bulalohan
Known for: crispy pata and bulalo

Sumangan Tapuligan
Known for: authentic Kapampangan cuisine

Kusi Bansa Cuisine
Known for: seafood

Navarro's Tuba ng Talingka
Known for: crab paste, fermented shrimp, papaya pickles

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HOORAY for today!

It's More Fun Eating Magnolia Ice Cream!
Magnolia Ice Cream, the first name in ice cream, launched its newest flavor recently to promote the Kapampangan and the festivals of Lapu-Lapu and Mactan, Cebu, in line with the Philippines' tourism campaign and the theme "It's more fun in the Philippines."
The pioneering ice cream maker in the country announced its third collection of exotic flavors under the newly launched Summer Through Its Mangoes and Cream and Its Regular Duo Unleashed with the Mix-Flavor concept.
"We are happy that these provinces agreed to be featured for our new Magnolia Ice Cream flavors. We are hoping two festivals will come by and enjoying our ice cream and the country's tourism program," Bonnevie said.
These flavors are Laguna and Batangas' very own and Magnolia Ice Cream lovers will surely enjoy these delectable treats. Buko Pandan Supreme through its Marquesa and Cream and the Regular Duo Unleashed with the Mix-Flavor concept.
MD General Manager Regis Bonnevie said that the flavors were conceived three years ago in time for the festival celebrations. Buko Pandan Supreme through its Marquesa and Cream and the

ENTERTAINMENT

Lilian Rivonio G. Pelarde
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Glamorous stars compare notes about past loves

By the Entertainment Staff

SAME true colors emerge when they forget that they're wearing lapel mikes.

CAOL Gamora: Flowers for Kris Bernal

RUSHES

While killing time on the set, Glamorous star kept yakking with her pal pal, Amy Snarler. Funny thing was, they were still wearing their mikes.

Us and Si started gossiping about past boyfriends as though they were in the dressing room. The girls went into the gory details—going so far as comparing, ah, "scores." Yes, that kind.

The guys in the control booth couldn't stop yakking.

Show in danger

Popular Program is in danger of getting axed.

In the telecon of its Controversial Hats, stays left in a huff....like a sad, abandoning a sinking ship? Hmm, perhaps.

See the brazen fans waiting for lounging Starlet to go on vacation before making it official? Because timing is everything at this point, that would allow it a

GLAMOROUS ON

TOO HAUNG: Is her departed son drooling on her?

INSIDE

■ **Sarah Geronimo shines at her birthday concert** Review /D5

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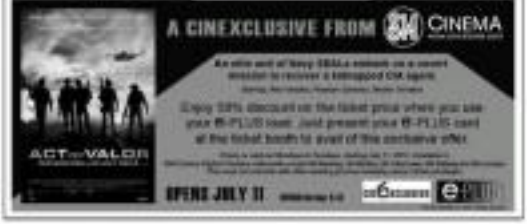

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PALAWAN

TV hosts with the most—and least

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE era when TV program hosts were chosen for their ability to blindly and interestingly keep their shows going, its entertaining side interviews with celebrities or special celebrity guests, and add to the excitement of their game and quiz portions.

Then, pioneering TV hosts like Eddie Ilarde, Bob Stewart, Tito Mudez, Boots Avila, Eddie Ilarraza, Joey Lardizabal, Marilou Prado, Sylvia La Torre, Pete Roa, Boots Anson-Roa and Bobby Ledesma were trained professionals, many of whom cut their broadcast teeth in radio before they "graduated" to the then-new TV medium.

The situation became problematic some years ago when TV producers sought to boost viewership by hiring stars instead of professional TV people as program hosts.

Unavailable

Their logic was unassailable: Movie stars were popular personalities in their own right, so if they were tapped to host TV programs, their shows' popularity would also be enhanced.

In addition, viewers would be curious about how well the stars would do at their new jobs, so that would be extra incentive for them to watch their new TV programs.

Aside from "logic," however, there is the other key issue of the stars' competence at their new calling.

Show biz luminaries are somet imes well

METRO Gaisbuk editor Bonifacio at host

educated creatures whose dialogue is often scripted, so they may not do all that well when they're focusing on contestants and interview subjects instead of their beautiful selves. And they may turn out to be lousy ad-libbers when they have to talk without the familiar crutch of scripted lines!

Sure enough, some stars turned program hosts were major disappointments, and the shows they handled were poorly paced and had a lot of "dead air"—a major no-no in TV broadcasting!

To compensate for the stars' incompetence, they were made to stop ad-libbing, and everything they had to say was scripted, just like in the movies.

'Idiot boards'

With the help of "idiot boards," they read their quick and leading questions from done accurately-named visual aids and tried to make their sound like spontaneous utterances. With the help of such devices and ploys, the phenomenon of stars turned hosts seems to proliferate on TV these days—with decidedly mixed results.

On the plus side, the best star hosts are exemplified by the suave-mannered likes of Iya Villaniaa and Martin Nievera. On the other hand, many stars continue to do poorly as TV program hosts—including some celebrities who unfold clunk his cut-rated talk shows.

They work under the additional burden of talking about the size and scandals of done friends and colleagues...an awkward state of affairs that exposes the basic contradiction of what they're doing.

The most recent example of the inelegancy and insubstantiality of the star host situation is the new program, "Unleashed Camp," which is hosted by actors Enrique Romana, Rian Lim and Matteo Guidicelli.

Despite their being almost completely relaxed and scripted spots, they aren't able to generate enough energy and interest value in the program's proceedings, and the show is the poorer for it.

IDOL! Mariano is among the best star-hosts.

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10 things

LEARN new things and challenge what you know with Howie Chamiel as it premieres "10 Things You Don't Know About" tonight at 9.

Archer and historian David Eisenbach recounts compelling details about Benjamin Franklin and John F. Kennedy.

On July 18, Eisenbach tackles Edgar J. Hoover. On July 25, the program revisits the world's most famous Wild West gunfight in "The OK Corral."

Danger by Design on Sky

Follow Nic and his family as he designs, tests, builds and performs valid, amazing and heart-stopping circus acts in "Danger By Design," which premiers tonight at 9 on Discovery.

Ultimate rat race Barry Bingham seeks out car aficionados and talks about what to consider in "Car Crazy Central," which premieres July 28 at 6 p.m. on Discovery Turbo.

For details, visit www.mydy.com.ph.1

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Glamorous stars...

> from page D1

proof it out...

Devil worshipper

Cute and cover alike were seven feet of blow his handler.

Whenever other people chat, ad about religion or the act, 50 banned in, drooling chair beliefs and cracking that they should be worshipping the devil instead.

They would then cross themselves, silently praying that JO was joking. But M was always always dead serious.

When M had to leave the project, somehow seemed a sigh of relief, freed from a very toxic colleague.

Bad beauty

Beautiful Starlet could've zoomed straight to the top. Alas, a lousy attitude derailed her progress.

Coworkers complain that BB is a prima donna and refuse to work with her and her Overbearing Manager. Both act like spoiled brats on the set.

Perhaps, nursing that her projects were becoming infrequent, BB tried to mend her ways, but it could be a case of too little too late.

Career change

Although Aging Hunk claims that his friendship was a love, a reliable mole insists that the rumor is only half-true.

OI had texted AH to a "getting-to-know-you" date, much like an audition. As was his practice, OI asked AH to strip as this way he can counter—checking out the merchandise, of course.

Unimpressed, OI asked AH to act as a "governor" instead and to introduce him to other so-called "professionals" in Showbiz.

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's TV publicity (and why we are moved, if we are moved).

▸Kathryn Bernardo's first appearance of love teammate Daniel Padilla "Magsama na pladdog—paired Orlando sige lang pareng mag-ano, pero kapag nakilala mo siya, sa per hair, super gentleman."

KATHRYN Bernardo

▸Eugene Domingo's "Ang Babae sa Septic Tank" director Marilyn Reyes "Ang galing-galing ni Eugene, napakagaling niya sa comedy, napakagaling niya sa drama, napakagaling niya sa lahat ng bagay. Kaya nga siya ang Comedy Queen."

▸Kathryn on Daniel's looks: "Basta may something sa kanya ... mukhang bang daring siya." (Signal No. 3 ni Interesting 7 Signal)

▸Daniel, asked if the screen time between him and Kathryn is just for show: "Syempre yung mahigpit-pantay-pantay lang. Talagang si Kathryn po'y gusto ko talagang ibambuhay, kung hanggang sa Kathryn, siyang pi-mean talaga." (Hello, Uncle Robin, is that you?)

▸Sen. Chiz Escudero on rumors linking him to Heart Evangelista: "There's nothing really at this point. We've met on several occasions. The conversations were good. Sinasabi lang ako sa sarili ko (pretend...)

▸Carla Abellana on her relationship with Geoff Eigenmann: "We are going strong, we are very happy, we continue to love and take good care of each other." (And we are so proud.)

▸Iza Calzado on what's more important between winning an acting award and having a high-rating show: "Both are important, but of course, if you give a good performance, then you could win an award. If you could have good ratings." (Then you could give good answers like this one.)

▸Richard Yap, asked if he's getting used to his newfound fame: "Pero just stand to get close to people meeting to take pictures with you. It's just easy for me because I'm shy."

BEA LUCERO

(It still counts.)

▸Kylie Padilla on being single: "Parang pahinga muna sa mundo ng mga single." (Yes, girl, his one is busy already with a boyfriend.)

▸Iza Misa on rumored boyfriend Patrick Meneses: "Six long years lang pinaghiwalay ko sa kanya ... mahirap lang daming sasabihin ng mother." (Mother Nature?)

▸Rachelle Ann Go on being linked to Mayi Mercado: "He's an up-and-coming baby broadcaster, eh. Je-lousha, eto sino ba?" (Stranger things have happened, actually.)

▸Jasmine Curtis-Smith on doing a duet with big ex Jason: "Haha, buhay lil' teenage' ang bagets! Isa-all-along, but we can't sing!" (Honesty is the best policy, eh Daniel?)

▸Polemang ang allegedly being hunted by her dead son's agents: "Kung hindi siya 'yun last guests to happy na siya ... siguro siya ang mga nagsasabi na 'di siya 'yun." (Moms are never scared.)

▸Gil Cuerva, asked if he's courting Erin Ocampo: "Actually, nililigawan ko na siya, eh. Binibigyan ko siya ng flowers ... message!" (Maligo na kayo at libre ... flowers lang!)

▸Luis Quinquin, asked how many kids she wants: "Twelve ... minus 10!" (Ano 'to, mark spot?)

▸Ian Lucas on being linked to Alyssa Evangelista: "Please, I can't believe somebody is 'in' against ... We're just friends. Show biz na show biz!" (Let us say it for you, Ian—show biz na show biz!)

(Harrold, Paparazzi, Showbiz Central, Pilo Buzz, with Allan Policarpio, Contributor)

IZA CALZADO

Pidol's visitors

A STEADY stream of celebrities continues to visit Comedy king Dolphy who has been in the hospital for a month now.

Family spokesperson Eric Quizon told the business that he was elated to see his father's old colleagues, specifically DPI star Willie del Sol and former Yolanda Dantes' costar Mahal de Leon.

"I was surprised because when Dolphy saw me, he waved at me." Mila also told the bosses, "We've been praying for him. My daughter Jessica Young worked with him."

(Comedian) Vic Sotto, (producer) Antonio Tuviera, Jim, Manny Villar and (actress) Bida Mulat (who has a son with Bernie Quizon) have dropped by, too," said Eric. "A lot of people have called to ask if they could visit. Some have sent flowers and food. We are thankful to all of them."

Bryanni Jean Diego-Jr.

CHEER FACTOR

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER (3D) 10:15, 1:15, 4:20, 7:25, 10:30
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
3: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
4: KUNG FU DOKA AND THE TEMPLE OF KITANG 10:40, 12:45, 2:50, 7:10, 9:20, 11:25
5: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 10:05, 1:05, 4:10, 7:15, 9:55, 11:55
6: MAGIC MIKE 10:50, 1:45, 4:55, 7:45, 9:55, 11:45
7: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 1:10, 4:05, 7:00, 9:50, 12:40

GREENBELT 5
1: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 12:40, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:45
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

GREENHILLS 2
1: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 12:00, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45, 1:00 AM
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D) 1:00, 4:15, 7:30, 10:45 AM
3: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 AM
4: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER (3D) 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 AM
5: MAGIC MIKE 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15 AM

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: MAGIC MIKE 12:30, 4:30, 8:40, 10:45 AM
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 AM
3: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER (3D) 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 AM
4: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 AM
5: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:40 AM

AYALA CENTER CEBU
1: MAGIC MIKE (3D) 1:00, 3:40, 6:50, 7:10, 9:30 AM
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 1:30, 3:45, 6:45, 9:10 AM
3: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D) 1:00, 3:15, 6:05, 8:45 AM
4: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 1:05, 3:35, 5:55, 7:15, 9:25 AM

MARQUEE
1: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 12:00, 12:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30 AM
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 AM
3: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 11:30, 2:30, 5:30, 8:15 AM
4: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 11:30, 2:30, 5:30, 8:15 AM

MARKET! MARKET!
1: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D) 12:45, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00 AM
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45 AM
3: KUNG FU DOKA & THE TEMPLE OF KITANG 10:40, 12:15, 4:45, 7:05, 9:25 AM
4: MAGIC MIKE (3D) 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 AM
5: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 12:45, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 AM
6: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 12:15, 3:15, 6:15, 9:00 AM
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA
1: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 12:15, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 AM
2: KUNG FU DOKA & THE TEMPLE OF KITANG 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 AM
3: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER (3D) 12:15, 2:30, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30 AM
4: MAGIC MIKE (3D) 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 AM
5: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 AM
6: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 10:00, 1:45, 4:45, 7:30, 10:30 AM
7: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 1:15, 3:30, 5:30, 8:15, 10:30 PM

ARBEZA
1: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D) 12:45, 3:30, 6:30 PM
2: MAGIC MIKE (3D) 12:00, 3:00, 6:15, 7:15, 9:30 PM
3: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 12:15, 3:00, 6:00, 7:30, 9:30 PM
4: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D) 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30 PM

MARION POINT
1: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:30 PM
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 PM
3: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D) 12:45, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00 PM
4: MAGIC MIKE (3D) 2:00, 4:40, 6:30, 9:00 PM

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AYALA CENTER CEBU
Cebu Eco Friendly Exhibit 2012 (Celebration of the eco-friendly events) - July 12-15/Activity Area 1 & Rotunda Area 1

MARQUEE
Plants vs. Zombies Live at MarQuee Mall
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MALL SPECIAL

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Media left out of 'PBB Teen' finals

Meanwhile, this year's winner has had to defend her triumph and insist she deserves it

By Marinel R. Cruz

FOR EDDA a well-deserved top secret, "BIT in the Big Night"—final episode of this year's "Pinoy Big Brother Teen" held on Saturday—was effectively kept out of the reach of media outside of ABS-CBN programs.

Grapevine Myrtle Ford for two from Cebu was declared Big Winner that night.

Finally any arrangement for coverage was made for the event, which the network subsequently described as "exclusive" and "literally discussed" on Twitter. It was also expected to have topped the list of social media trending topics on the social networking site.

But insider told the business that only Kapamilya in-house writers were present at the proceedings held at Hidden Sports and Convention Center in Bicutan.

The [illegible] notion that the venue was too small and the number of seats was limited.

Unpopular winner

Meanwhile, it seems the 17-year-old winner has so stirred her triumph. "Some people don't think I deserve it," network personalities on Saturday quoted Sarson as saying. "I'm glad that there are more people who like me than [those who] hate me."

Sarson became controversial when she was linked to housemate Jet Tenorio and Yves Flores (the latter admitted that he had a girlfriend outside Big Brother's house). However, Sarson reportedly denied she had feelings for Flores.

She also got a lot of flak for "playing favorites".

Sarson may have gotten the highest percentage of "votes"—11%—but she also got

PBB TEEN Edition 4 Big winner Myrtle Ford for two (at left) and 1st runner-up Jet Tenorio have Bukti Charmaye

PBB TEEN Edition 4 Big Four: Jet and Jej, Myrtle, Karen, Joey

second a massive 33.92 percent of the total number of votes, to eventually win the reality show.

The big-budget show P1 million in cash prize, a gated appliances showcase, a gadget showcase, and an house four privileges.

For second

Aiwa Blue Rivers, a Fur second with 13.95 percent of the votes, bagged P500,000. The other winners were Ray Bergonia (8.38 percent), child talents and Jolina Jet and Joy Aguinaldo (8.28 percent), Pamela Pesquera and the Irene received P300,000 and P200,000, respectively. The runners-up also won significant cash prizes.

In an interview on the Sunday published "The Buzz," Sarson said: "It's like I'm still in a dream. But now that I'm already outside the house, I'm ready to prove that I deserve all these votes."

A former client of the Senggunong Kristiano, Sarson also said she hoped "to use the fame from who cannot defend themselves." She plans to be a GM lifetime member.

While winning PBB could lead to a career in show business, Sarson vowed to never regard her children.

She said: "An opportunity like this comes once in a lifetime so I will definitely grab it. And [will] try my best to manage school and work at the same time."

E-mail: letters@inquirer.com.ph

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CINEMA 9: Resident Evil: Retribution | Resident Evil: Damnation
CINEMA 10: The Amazing Spiderman 3D

SOME of the artists at Sarah Geronimo's "2012" concert (from left) the rest of the stars in one of her subsequent guests Sam Concepcion and Angela Ayala; Jon Santos; Bandz with "Tito Compas"; and Bamboo

Sarah shines

Pop star evokes desire, sensuality, pain, desperation in birthday concert

By Pocholo Concepcion

[illegible] moments giggled a lot and chattered like a teenager during her concert on Saturday night at Smart Araneta Coliseum.

But though the fourth retrospective of Geronimo's career, she's turning 26 on July 25, hence the show's title, "24/7/12"—found a personalized moment when she sang her maiden hit, originally charged, but it seemed she had more control and was able to convey mood and emotion without relying too much on power.

Fun bash

After the obligatory boogie-opening numbers in which she evoked desire and sensuality via Beyonce's "Beautiful Nightmare," Earthmoves' "Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)" and Rihanna's "Where Have You Been," Sarah's growth as a singer was apparent in the succeeding numbers—her personal favorites, she said.

These included The Script's "You Pulling to Pieces" and Christina Perri's "Jar of Hearts" wherein she's pain and losing vulnerable which, whether or not Sarah had experienced in real life, sounded genuine in her rendition.

But she looked bashful and laughed nervously at the end of their set, again revealing her shy-girl act here.

Her concert—mounted by Sarah's management, Viva—was an advanced birthday bash, which's meant to lead to the fun. That was best handled by comic Jon Santos whose spunky impersonation of Dennis Padilla (Mommy Dionisia), Angelbelle Dinna (Antonette Dianna), Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago (Miriam Santiago) and Vilma Santos (Ate Vim) certainly left the audience in stitches.

Surreal act, which came in a specific schedule, served as transitions for the show's segment of Geronimo's three-faceted life: wishes—family, freedom, love—coming to fruition. The love angle, which everybody assumed is its about Gerald Anderson, turned out to be Sarah's take on spirituality.

In any case, it was Bamboo who made the biggest differ-ence as guest singer, even than Sen Concepcion, Angela Ayala, Basil Valdez and Bandz's did Dolfie Geronimo. In a duet on the '80s One Dolfie' "Bet" Bamboo's impassioned vocals brought out the classic rocker in Sarah, who head-banged, quivered and captured the angst sentiments in a finger on toes.

"24/7/12" will have a repeat on July 21 at Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Opening This Week

Magic Mike

Directed by Steven Soderbergh stars Channing Tatum, Matthew McConaughey, Alex Pettyfer, Joe Manganiello, Matt Bomer

Male strippers dreams of becoming a franchise maker, Dallas (Tatum) Fastest Beats thanks the director "created a spicy yet banal, un-pimply high-energy yet mostly tired-eyed musical." Wall Street Journal's Joe Morgenstern says "[Avid Colmer] stripped of Warner got ambitious role." Opens today.

Ice Age 4: Continental Drift

Directed by Michael Thurmeier, Steve Martino; stars Ray Romano, Denis Leary, John Leguizamo, Queen Latifah, Jennifer Lopez, Nicki Minaj

As the scientists break apart, prehistoric animals try to reunite with loved ones. Bumgardner Nod's Phil Lewis notes: "Don't go expecting too much and you'll enjoy it well enough." Total Film's Patrick Holleran commends sequel to looking a bit old ... [but] it still has Scrat—which is all any movie really needs." Opens tomorrow.

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THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN – P333
12:50, 2:25, 8:10, 9:50
THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN – P333
1:45, 4:55, 8:00, 9:50
THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN – P333
1:20, 5:10, 9:00
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Shangri-La Plaza

MARTIN Nievera and Dyan Alcaraz near their dressing room door at Hollywood Bowl

Ogie, Martin in Apl's LA concert

DYAN Alcaraz is all revved up for apl.de.ap's concert for Pinoys at Hollywood Bowl.

"Martin Nievera, Vanessa Hudgens and I will do the OPM part," Dyan gushes. "Apl and the Black Eyed Peas will do the finale with Shinoda Bhent."

Dyan Pride! They sure wow and sing it well.

Preggy Lara

Miss Universal 2005 Precious Lara Quigaman is now officially Mrs. Marco Alcaraz.

Lara, who married Nievera last May, is due to give birth to their baby boy, whom they are naming Scott, in September.

Last year, on Jan. 1, they wed in civil rites in Canada. They just had to do the big Christian wedding in Manila for their folks and friends here.

"Hindi natural is the best early Christmas gift," beams Lara. "Si Marco ang pinagbibigyan ko. I don't let him out of my sight. He wants me to give birth abroad but I'd rather do it here because our bonding can be different."

The guests at their nuptials were moved when Marco kissed Lara's tummy. The bride and groom died happy tears as they exchanged vows.

Congrats! Couples like Lara and Marco make me believe in marriage again.

Maternity leave

Amy Perez is on maternity leave from her top-rating TV5 show "Face to Face." Gelli de Belen will pinch-hit for her as Pambansang Kapitana until Amy gives birth.

"All that fighting on the show is so stressful, my doctor advised me to take a break," Amy explains.

She's delighted her son Ash and Kyle react to the news of a new sibling? "Ash's superexcited. He broke the news to the family," Amy recounts. "Gaelle (her partner) said I still have to talk to Kyle."

The "Face to Face" queen has gone through many phases in the name of love. Her heart has finally found its home for better or for worse—and for keeps.

Personal

Joy went to thank my friends for taking good care of me in Davao.

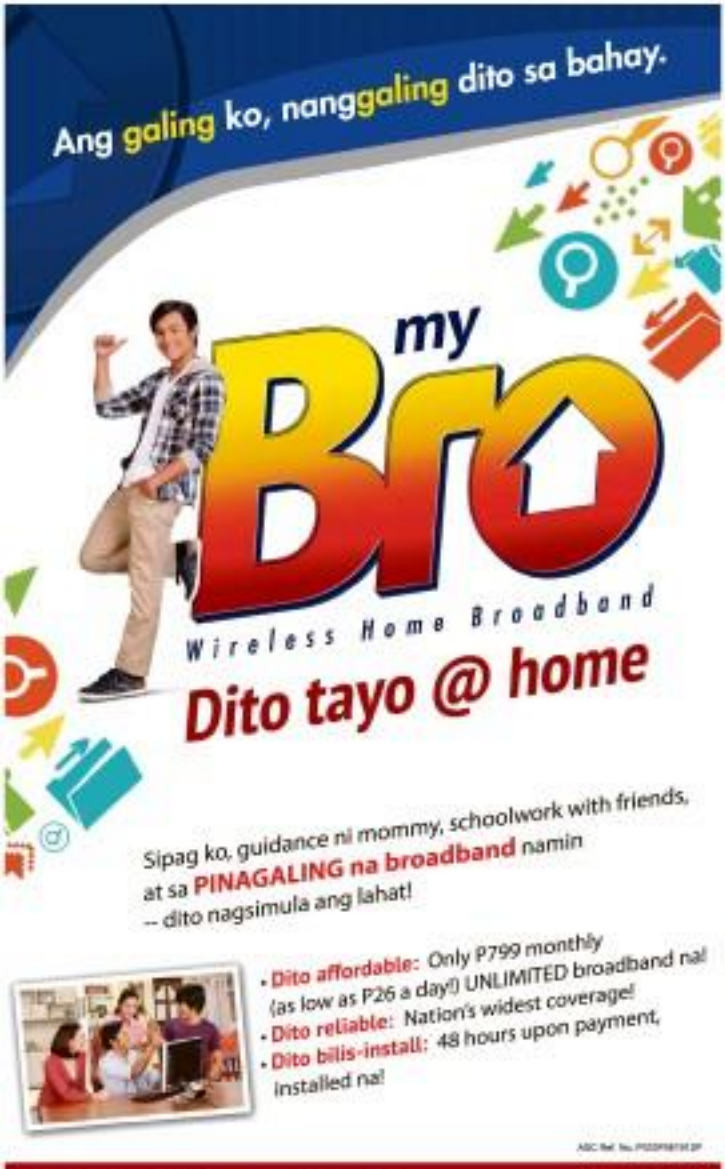
Daghang salamat to Anne and Boy Trinidad of the hot parks in Bhel City (Davao Oriental), Reynelle Salvo and Ypic Koch Francisco, Yumex Dan of Al-Akram Cakes, Rochelle del Rosario, Mae Galleria, Abolurino Rebot and Mayor Carnejo for an unforgettable holiday in Davao Republic.

Thanks a mil to Joey de Guzman of Philippine Airlines for the kind assistance over and beyond the call of duty.

E-mail wazzup.bgbolodotgrgirl@yahoo.com

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal



MARCO Alcaraz and Lara Quigaman